

## Israeli allies threaten Beirut

MARJAYOUN (AP) — The commander of Israel's surrogate militia in South Lebanon Wednesday warned of "grave consequences" if the government continues to tighten the noose on the population of an Israeli-occupied border enclave. Gen. Antoine Lahdi complained that many of the 200,000 inhabitants of the so-called "security zone" have been subjected to thorough searches and arrests at Lebanese army checkpoints on the northern edge of the enclave. "These serious acts, if continued, subject the country to grave consequences," said Mr. Lahdi, leader of the 2,500-strong South Lebanon Army (SLA). He did not say what actions he would take. His comments came as Israeli gunboats cruising off the southern coast enforced a two-week-old fishing blockade on the port of Tyre north of the "security zone." The siege keeps fishermen ashore, threatening the livelihood of 500 families by depriving them of their only source of income in the economically depressed region. Fisherfolk called an open-ended strike in Tyre beginning Thursday to draw attention to their plight and help pressure Israel into ending the embargo.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

## Palestinians form anti-Arafat group

NABLUS (R) — Palestinian nationalists and Islamists announced on Wednesday the formation of the first Arab coalition in the occupied West Bank opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord. Bassam Al Shaka, a former mayor of Nablus, said the new "Palestinian Coalition" was calling for the resignation of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "This is the only logical thing to do after his complete failure," said Mr. Shaka, who lost his legs in a bombing carried out by Jewish terrorists in 1980. Mr. Shaka told Reuters the new opposition group sought to "reunify" the Palestinian people under one leadership and one institution after the PLO lost its title of representative of all Palestinians. Palestinian sources said the group, which did not include members of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction or its rival, Hamas, was the first in the West Bank to form a coalition publicly opposed to the peace process.

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## Jordan, Bahrain draft media accord

MANAMA (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Information Minister Naeef Mola on Wednesday signed a draft executive programme with Dr. Halah Umran, the under secretary of the Bahraini Ministry of Information to launch cooperation in information-related fields. The draft agreement would be endorsed by the governments of the two countries during a visit to Jordan next month by Bahrain's Information Minister Tareq Al Muayad at the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart Khaled Karaki. The draft programme provides for the two countries to exchange radio and television messages, hold training programmes for personnel working for information services, coordinate in the use of satellites for radio and television broadcasts, exchange of radio and television news and other programmes, conduct joint programmes production work, coordinate work in publications and the work of the national news agencies and exchange publications and information booklets and media expertise. The Jordanian delegation was later received by Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah, the emir of Bahrain, who voiced pride in the Jordanian-Bahraini ties.

## Iran denies talks with Israel on Arad

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Wednesday denied it had engaged in talks with Israel for the release of Ron Arad, an Israeli airman captured in Lebanon in 1986. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper reported Tuesday that Israeli and Iranian negotiators have been meeting in separate rooms at the German chancellery in Bonn, with German mediators shuttling between them, to discuss Arad. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammad as saying Tuesday that no direct or indirect negotiations with Israel through Germany have been taken place.

## Iran blasts U.N. human rights report

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran alleged Wednesday that a recent U.N. report accusing it of human rights violations was "spiteful" and based on information from groups hostile to the Islamic Republic. Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the report repeated "earlier spiteful and contradictory claims" made by the United Nations. In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission Monday, Salvadorean Jurist Reynaldo Galindo Phol said Iran continued to rely heavily on executions, torture, repression and religious persecution to enforce obedience to its Islamic revolutionary ideals. "This report has been prepared indirectly on the basis of groups hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran," the radio said.

## Arab League opens meeting on Somalia

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League opened an international conference Wednesday on how to help Somalia after United Nations troops complete their withdrawal next month. Participating in the two-day meeting are representatives of the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and some of the 22 members of the Arab League. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's secretary-general, told the conference that all Arab League resolutions stress "the importance of supporting the Somali people and continuing peaceful attempts to close viewpoints between the warring factions." Dr. Abdul Meguid warned of the "dangerous bend" that the Somali crisis has reached (see page 12).

## PLO seeks external help to salvage autonomy accord

Cairo statement puts off decision on talks, calls for Arab summit and world pressure on Israel

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) turned to the international community on Wednesday to help salvage deadlocked autonomy negotiations as a last resort before deciding on whether to break off the peace process with Israel.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who chaired a two-day crisis meeting of his Executive Committee, delayed a final decision until the committee meets again in early March.

"Certain members, including myself, demanded the pure and simple suspension of negotiations with Israel, but the final decision was postponed until the next meeting meeting," said Samir Ghosheh, a member of the committee.

"I don't think the Executive Committee adopted the necessary measures to face up to Israel's intransigence," he said.

The PLO called for an Arab summit and international pressure on Israel to implement self-rule, in a statement issued after the meeting in the Egyptian capital Tuesday and Wednesday.

The committee said it was "important to examine the stagnation in the peace process at an Arab meeting of the highest level and as quickly as possible."

Committee members would contact the European Union, the United States, Russia, Norway, Islamic and non-aligned countries and address the U.N. Security Council, it said.

Washington and Moscow are co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991, while Oslo staged secret talks which led the PLO and Israel to sign the autonomy accords in September 1993.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia later Wednesday for talks with King Fahd.

Palestinian autonomy negotiator Nabil Shaath explained: "We can not take a

unilateral decision on the negotiations. We must first consult PLO leaders, our Arab partners and the sponsors of the peace process."

The results of consultations would be judged at the next committee meeting in Tunis and "in the light of this the committee meeting will take its final decision on a possible break with the peace process," Mr. Ghosheh said.

He acknowledged it would be difficult to convene an Arab summit but it was feasible, while other PLO officials said it could be a ministerial or a foreign ministers' meeting.

"Arabs will be asked not just to support the Palestinian position but also to press ahead with normalisation with Israel," said Mr. Ghosheh.

"We cannot accept them giving Israel what it wants while this state refuses to honour the accords it has signed."

The Executive Committee session — for which only Mr.

Arafat supporters turned up — also decided to resume dialogue with Palestinian opponents of the peace process.

Mr. Arafat would head a committee tasked with opening a "comprehensive dialogue with all the Palestinian forces and personalities," the PLO statement said.

But hardline opposition groups based in Damascus refused Wednesday to respond to the PLO's call until the autonomy accord was scrapped.

Here are the main points of the PLO statement:

PEACE PROCESS: The Executive Committee said it was "important to examine the stagnation in the peace process at an Arab meeting of the highest level and as quickly as possible."

The PLO will also "begin immediate contacts with the European Union, the United States, Russia, Norway, the group of Islamic countries

(Continued on page 7)

## Yemen reports progress in border talks with Saudis

99 killed

SANA (Agencies) — Yemeni security forces have made progress at talks over a long-standing border dispute but some points of disagreement still need to be ironed out, Yemen's Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani said on Wednesday.

"We consider what has been achieved as a progress in relations between the two countries... there has been agreement on some points and some points of disagreement are still left," he told a news conference in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

He did not elaborate on what remains to be agreed.

Mr. Abdul Ghani said that the two sides, if they fail to reach final agreement before the end of February, would hold more talks after Eid Al Fitr.

Yemeni and Saudi delegations have been discussing for about a month now how to settle the 60-year-old border dispute which escalated into clashes in December.

Both countries have accused each other of moving troops to the potentially oil-rich border area.

Both Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Saudi King Fahd have said they wanted to see a peaceful solution to the row.

President Saleh said Tuesday he was ready to take the border dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Mr. Abdul Ghani on Monday discussed with officials from Hunt Oil and Exxon Corp their participation in the project.

Mr. Saleh sent U.S. President Bill Clinton a message last Wednesday assuring him that Yemen was determined to "settle the conflict with Riyadh through peaceful dialogue without resorting to force."

Gas contract

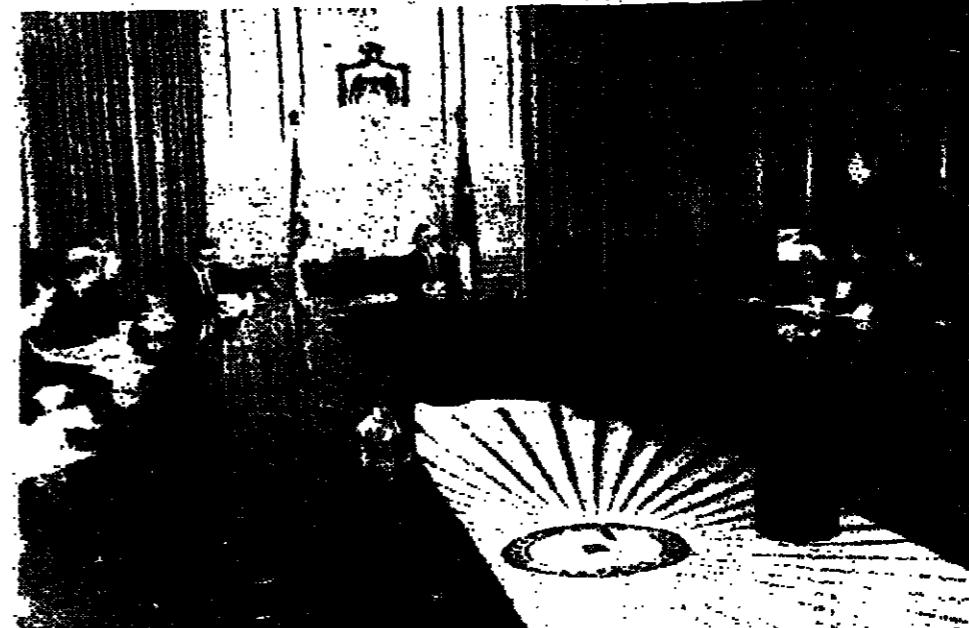
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His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday meets with a delegation representing the American Jewish Congress (Petra photo)

## King: Jordan opted for peace in best interest of region, people

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that Jordan had opted for peace for the best interest of the peoples of the region and their future generation.

"We will seek to transcend the negative traces left from the struggle that plagued the region, causing a great deal of suffering for its people over the past 50 years," said the King in a meeting at the Royal Court with a delegation from the American Jewish Congress.

The King said Jordan would do everything in its power to back the peace process on all the other Israeli-Arab tracks until comprehensive peace is achieved — the peace that Jordan seeks would enable the peoples of this region to resume its development and construction process and attain a better standard of living benefiting the present and future generations, the King said.

The head of the delegation, David Victor, said the American Jewish Congress was committed to working for the attainment of just and durable peace, noting that the congress highly valued King Hussein's principled stands and his sincere efforts to achieve comprehensive peace in the region and enable its people to lead a dignified and secure life.

The audience was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary.

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Referring to the peace treaty with Israel, the King said that through that treaty the Kingdom had regained sovereignty over its lands and water resources.

What has been achieved through peace in the past came as a result of the firm Jordanian principled stands and the country's full commitment to a durable and just peace in the region," the King said.

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King Hussein said that Jordan, in its quest to achieve peace, followed the same principles adopted by the other Arab parties directly involved in the peace process since the Madrid conference.

He was speaking to the U.S. charge d'affaires to Riyadh, David Welch, who is visiting Yemen. Sanaa Radio said he was speaking to the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Mr. Welch sent U.S. President Bill Clinton a message last Wednesday assuring him that Yemen was determined to "settle the conflict with Riyadh through peaceful dialogue without resorting to force."

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## U.N. report slams Iraqi decrees

GENEVA (Agencies) — A United Nations investigator said on Tuesday that new Iraqi anti-crime decrees under which thieves can have their hands cut off for stealing less than \$10 showed Baghdad's "complete failure" to respect human rights.

In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, former Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoel said a series of such decrees issued over the past year constituted an "astounding public institution of cruel and unusual punishments."

Mr. Van der Stoel, the commission's "special" rapporteur on Iraq, said the decrees were just one sign of continuing massive human rights violations in Iraq — firmly blamed by him on the government of President Saddam Hussein.

The rapporteur also criticised Iraq for refusing to accept a U.N.-supervised sale of oil to buy medicines and foodstuffs, which he described as "a further example of a government seriously violating human rights."

His report examines a number of decrees issued by the Revolutionary Command Council and published in Iraq's official gazette.

Mr. Van der Stoel said

decree No. 59 of June 4, 1994 prescribes "amputation of the right hand at the wrist for a first offence of theft over 5,000 Iraqi dinars" — or less than \$10. Amputation of the left foot at the ankle is prescribed for a second offence and death for the third.

According to decree No. 109 of Aug. 18, those who have suffered amputations should be branded or tattooed with a "K" between the eyebrows.

Decree No. 115, issued a week later, "prescribes the cutting off of the auricle of one ear of each person evading military service, deserting military service, or sheltering any evader or deserter of military service."

Another decree says that farmers convicted of "sabotage of the national economy" — that is who refuse to sell their produce to the state at low state prices — are also liable to amputation of the hand and branding as well as imprisonment.

Mr. Van der Stoel said: "It is the opinion of the special rapporteur that these decrees reveal the complete failure of the government to respect its obligations under international human rights law."

"Indeed, it is surely a rarity in the contemporary interna-

tional community that a government not only boldly pronounces laws which stipulate disfigurement of persons within its jurisdiction, but shamelessly announces and advertises the existence of these punishments," he wrote.

Mr. Van der Stoel renewed calls that human rights monitors should be situated throughout the country to check on abuses, just as U.N. weapons experts monitored the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf war.

He has argued that given Iraq's power structures, the violations were inevitable and that human rights violations were a direct result of state policy.

In this year's report, Mr. Van der Stoel said his previous conclusions were still valid. He wrote: "Power is grossly abused on a daily and widespread basis. The special rapporteur submits that the decree issued recently in Iraq irrefutably substantiate this conclusion."

Mr. Van der Stoel said as well as the state, there was proof of the direct responsibility of a circle of high-placed individuals, individuals who would not be afforded immunity under international law for their actions.

"In this last connection, the special rapporteur continues to receive information

providing details of the personal involvement of a growing list of individuals within and around the ruling elite of Iraq in relation to various serious human rights violations," he wrote.

Mr. Van der Stoel has documented widespread rights violations in all spheres of life. He has not been allowed to visit the country since January 1992.

He has argued that given Iraq's power structures, the violations were inevitable and that human rights violations were a direct result of state policy.

Torture was the norm in Iraqi detention centres, the report said. In one of many cases, the bodies of six young men who had died in detention last August were returned to their families with their eyes plucked out.

The report said Iraq had "by far and away" the most cases of disappearances before any U.N. panel. At the end of 1994, there were 15,781 missing people, with hundreds more cases waiting to be investigated. More than 600 Kuwaitis and other foreigners were still unaccounted after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

## Libyan defector seeks \$5m from CIA

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prosecutor Khalid Darwish will travel to the United States on Saturday to day to press the trial against Muhammad Abequa, a Jordanian accused of killing his wife last July.

Mr. Abequa, a naturalised American citizen, confessed to killing his estranged Turkish-born wife, Nihal, 40, in her apartment on July 4, while her children slept in the bedroom. He then fled to Jordan with their two children, Lisa then 6, and Sami 3. He is being charged with first degree murder, and kidnaping.

The ability to decode communications allowed the United States to foil a 1980 plot to assassinate Egypt's former president, Anwar Sadat, and to intercept orders from Tripoli to shoot demonstrators in front of the Libyan embassy in London in April 1984. The information reached the British too late to avert the death of policewoman Yvonne Fletcher in front of the building.

CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield declined to comment on Mr. Hosck's claims not to discuss relationships with other agencies.

Mr. Hosck told the Washington Times he began working for the CIA in 1979, while serving as a diplomat at Libya's embassy in Lagos, Nigeria. Soon after, he borrowed the embassy's coding machine long enough for the Americans to copy the electronic data it contained. He defected two years later and went to work for the agency in Washington.

In 1992 Mr. Hosck complained to his superiors, asking to be paid \$5 million for his spying. Instead, he said he received \$50,000 and three years' severance pay from the agency.

"For any secret communications system... you have to pay millions," Mr. Hosck told the Washington Times. "I gave them the secret communications system of the Libyan regime."

The agency decoded Libyan government communications until 1986, Mr. Hosck said. Washington revealed its intercept capability that year to prove Libya's involvement in the bombing of a Berlin discotheque and justify a retaliatory air strike on Tripoli and Benghazi.

A U.S. soldier and a Turkish woman died in the Berlin blast and 200 people were injured. After the air strike, in which dozens of Libyans died, Voice of America repeatedly broadcast an appeal to the Libyan people to overthrow Colonel Qaddafi.

His government repeatedly has been linked to attacks. Allegations include the 1988 bombing of a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people, and the downing of a French jet over Niger the next year in which 171 people died.

Mr. Hosck eventually was transferred to the Libyan embassy in Rome, from where he was evacuated to the United States in 1981.

He said he helped write a CIA report detailing Libya's subversive activities in Africa, which was passed on to the Nigerian government against his objections. He said the report revealed his whereabouts to the Libyans, who until then had not known what had happened to him, and probably led to the deaths of family members in Tripoli.

17-day stay in Jordan ended with His Majesty King Hussein, who personally intervened, assuring her that he had been awarded custody of her dead sister's children. They were returned to the United States Aug. 18, 1992.

Once back in the U.S., Morris County superior court judge awarded care of the children to Ms. Dokur and the children's grandmother, Meryon Gussal.

"After he (Darwish) returns from the United States he will prepare a list of key witnesses that will have to come to Jordan to testify once the trial begins," explained Mr. Tal.

"We're anxious to work with Mr. Darwish, to introduce him to witnesses and to Morris County detectives," W. Michael Murphy Jr., Morris County prosecutor, was quoted as saying. "We want to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure a successful prosecution."

## Israel questions Syrian commitment to reaching a negotiated settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's deputy foreign minister, taking a new line on Syria, questioned on Wednesday the validity of its stated commitment to the pursuit of peace.

Yossi Beilin said Israel had accepted in recent years that Syria had made a strategic decision to achieve peace and the only question was when a deal would be signed.

"I have some doubts about accepting this because Syria's behaviour in the last few months has not been that of someone who decided unequivocally to pursue peace and is prepared to do his utmost to achieve it," he told Israel Radio.

Syria's peace talks with Israel are stalled over the extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967, and the shape of peace and future ties.

"The current negotiations, or absence of them, is leading to a situation whereby we will not reach peace with the Syrians in 1995 because things are moving at a snail's pace," said Mr. Beilin, who is close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Beilin's mention of the date was a clear reminder to Syria that time is running out

before Israel goes to elections in 1996. The Labour government's main rival, the right-wing Likud, opposes any territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Israel, while blaming Syria for the current deadlock in peace efforts, had in the past pointed to repeated Syrian statements that comprehensive peace in the Middle East was a strategic option as proof of a commitment to the process.

"They are still playing the game of whether the Syrian ambassador in Washington will or won't come to talk with our ambassadors," Mr. Beilin said. "If that is the case, it is very possible there are other items at the top of the Syrian agenda."

Syria has said further ambassadorial-level meetings would be useful only if Israel presented new ideas.

Mr. Beilin said it was possible Syria had only wanted to join the peace process to improve relations with Washington, which still officially regards it as a state that sponsors "terrorism," without having really intended to reach an agreement with us."

He questioned whether Syria was prepared to pay the price of peace, which he described as a change in its

position as the leader of Arab confrontation states against Israel and a possible worsening of its relations with Iran.

On Monday, the Syrian government daily Tishreen said recent Israeli attacks against guerrillas in South Lebanon were destroying the chances of peace in the Middle East.

Addressing army officers from the engineering corps that took part in removing land mines from the evacuated Jordanian land, Prince Hassan said that he hoped new plans would entail the development of these lands

Home

His Royal Highness Crown Prince

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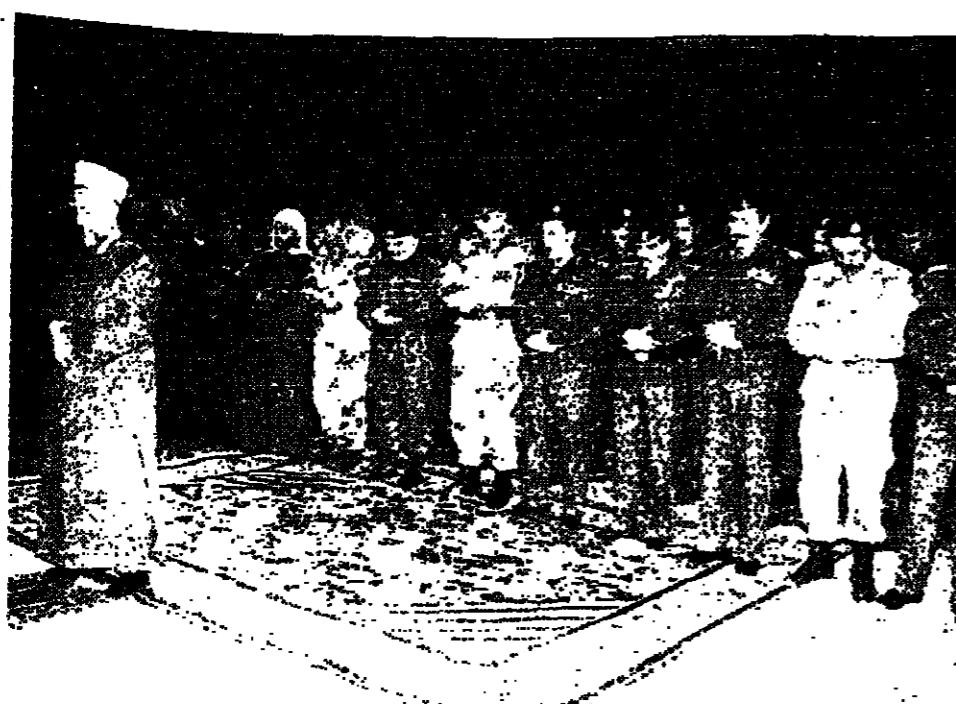
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan performs Maghreb prayers with army officers in the Jordan Valley

## Crown Prince urges optimal use of land evacuated by Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday said he hoped that the concerned authorities would draw up plans for efficient utilisation of the Jordanian lands in the Jordan Valley region evacuated by the Israeli forces in implementation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

Addressing army officers from the engineering corps that took part in removing land mines from the evacuated Jordanian land, Prince Hassan said that he hoped new plans would entail the development of these lands

for the production of cereal, olives and vegetables.

The Crown Prince, who hosted an iftar banquet at the Jordan Valley to honour the army officers, expressed appreciation of the Armed Forces' efforts and said that the evacuated lands had for long been neglected, and the time has come for Jordan to utilise this resource for food production.

He said that the Armed Forces had been contributing to the general development of the country before the peace treaty, expressing hope that they would participate

now in developing the thousands of dunums of territory that have been restored to Jordanian sovereignty.

Later Prince Hassan toured parts of the evacuated area and remarked that Jordanians have a duty to benefit from this sacred land and again make it productive.

He conveyed to the army officers greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and appreciation of their efforts in defending the national soil and helping to develop it as a contribution to the overall development programme of the Kingdom.

## Ministry works on draft agricultural policy

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing the final draft of the country's agricultural policy and will submit it to the higher agricultural council and later to the Council of Ministers for approval, according to Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif.

Addressing a meeting with the chairman and members of the Federation of Jordan Valley Farmers Association in Deir Alla Wednesday, the minister said that the policy

aims at enabling Jordan to become self-reliant and to increase its food production and improve the farmers' income.

Mr. Ben Tarif said that under the provisions of this policy representatives of farmers will be involved in decision-making in matters pertaining to food production, marketing and problem-solving.

The plan envisages better and more effective uses of land and water, he added.

## Central produce market to move to larger site

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Central Produce Market currently located in Wihdat will be relocated to Jweideh and serve the local and international markets, according to officials.

"The Wihdat market is too small compared to the large number of bidding and trade that takes place daily," Mustafa Abu Osba, the director of the central market said.

He told the Jordan Times that the expansion of agricultural technology and the resultant increase in the amounts of produce prompted the authorities to consider a larger and more convenient area for retailers and farmers to conduct their transactions.

The new market, he said, stretches over a 150-dunum area, which is seven times the size of the current market. In addition, Mr. Abu Osba said that there will be 220 new wholesale stores on the premises.

According to Mr. Abu Osba, the Central Produce Market, which was established in 1966, used to serve a small market, but circumstances changed in

Mr. Ben Tarif announced that the Ministry of Agriculture has acquired tractors and other field machinery and equipment which it would sell to farmers through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) at cost price and would request payment in instalments.

But the minister made it clear that the government was in no position to adopt a programme for agricultural insurance as this is very costly.

He warned the farmers that the Gulf states were not allowing any fruits and vegetables into their markets after August this year, unless they are packed in plastic or

wooden crates or boxes, and they would not accept polythene boxes.

Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Director Salem Lawzi told farmers that Jordan was expected to sell more of its products to the Gulf countries as relations with these countries improve.

He said that Jordan continues to sell most of its products to these countries and Europe and has started marketing agricultural products in Indonesia.

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he said that the new plan entails facilities for the farmers to pay their dues over longer periods of time and reschedule loan payments.

Mr. Ben Tarif announced at the meeting that the government was buying wheat from the local farmers at JD 165 a tonne and barley at JD 125.

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## S. Africa's Inkatha MPs pack for home in Buthelezi boycott

CAPE TOWN (R) — Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leading his party in a boycott of South Africa's newly-democratic parliament, attended a cabinet meeting Wednesday a cabinet meeting. Most of his MPs packed their bags for home.

Inkatha parliamentarian Suzanne Vos said it would take intervention by President Nelson Mandela to get the federalist Zulu-based party back to parliament after a special congress early next month.

"Everyone should take us very, very seriously, extremely seriously on this," she said of Buthelezi's decision Tuesday to walk out of parliament in protest against an alleged betrayal by Mr. Mandela and former President F.W. De Klerk.

"If nothing happens between now and the congress it will be very tough to persuade our people to send us back," she said.

The boycott has sparked fears of fresh violence in the volatile Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal where thousands have been killed in political feuding between the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the African National Congress (ANC) over the past decade.

Cabinet Secretary Jakes Gerwel told Reuters that Mr. Mandela, Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Buthelezi chatted over coffee before Wednesday's routine cabinet meeting, but he was not aware of what was discussed.

Mr. Gerwel said all Inkatha ministers were in cabinet with the three leaders, but the walkout was not.

Mr. Mandela Tuesday condemned the walkout.

Officials of Mr. Mandela's

ANC and Mr. De Klerk's National Party, partners with Inkatha in a transitional government of national unity, denied that either had reneged on their written promise last year to submit Mr. Buthelezi's constitutional demands to international mediation.

They said the three parties had, however, been unable to agree on terms and an agenda for the mediation effort, which would overlap the work of an elected Constitutional Assembly.

He said all three IFP members of the cabinet were present at the pre-planned, special meeting that dealt with a white paper on education.

The surprise walkout Tuesday has been shrugged off by the ANC, the majority party.

Mr. Mandela said this week that international mediation, as agreed at April 1994 meeting with him, Mr. De Klerk, Mr. Buthelezi and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, was no longer necessary.

"This is silly," a leading ANC government figure said. "It cannot last. Many of these parliamentarians rely on their salaries to live and if they stay away too long they will lose their source of income."

Fears that the issue could become a stumbling block to IFP participation in municipal elections scheduled for October were dispelled Wednesday by the Zulu nationalistic party.

"The fact that the IFP has suspended its participation in parliament has no bearing whatsoever on the party's preparations for the elections," IFP campaign manager Senzo Mfayela said. "The IFP is encouraging all of our structures to continue with voter registration programs."

Apart from immediate rumblings that the walkout could drive the financial round down and delay the scrapping of the unit for foreign invest-

tors, economists said markets would wait and see what happened after next month's conference.

"It could just be another example of Buthelezi brinkmanship," Marius de Jager, chief executive of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said. "He's rather fond of pushing things to the limit."

Tony Twine of Econometrics, a think tank, said Mr. Buthelezi's move was "mainly symbolic."

"All they have done is withdraw from parliament," he said. "Their executive functions are not altered."

And even if the IFP withdrew permanently, he said, "it will allow them to become more of an opposition, which is what democracy is all about."

"This has not damaged democracy in South Africa," Mr. Twine said. "Let's us hope the rest of the world sees it like that."

The IFP's walkout came hours after the head of South Africa's central Reserve Bank, Chris Stals, said the dual currency system could be scrapped at any time as far as he was concerned.

But he warned that a final decision to abolish the financial rand would have to be taken by politicians and that scrapping the investment unit required political stability.

Meanwhile, the IFP legislators who walked out could lose their seats in parliament if they miss more than 15 consecutive working days of the sitting, parliamentary Speaker Frene Ginwala said.

She told a press briefing here that lawyers were also looking into whether the IFP would lose its registration as a political party if it did not fill the empty seats.

## U.S. urges Turkey to spare civilians

ANKARA (AP) — Drawing parallels with the Vietnam War, a U.S. official has warned Turkey to restrain its battle against Kurdish rebels from becoming an offensive against civilians.

But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard C. Holbrooke tried to ease concern over the prospect of U.S. sanctions because of Turkish human rights violations.

"I think it will be extremely unproductive to leave the impression that human rights... will become something that will rupture the U.S.-Turkish relations," he added.

Turkey is accused of razing villages and forcing evacuations in its fight against Kurdish separatists in southeast Turkey. Turkish police are also accused of systematic torture of suspected rebels and others.

Turkish officials deny any support for rights abuses.

But the State Department's 1994 report said the human rights situation had worsened significantly in Turkey, and Mr. Holbrooke said the government must halt any harm to innocent civilians during attacks on rebels.

U.S. human rights groups have been pressing to block the sale of U.S. cluster bombs to Turkey because they could be used against Kurdish civilians.

The U.S. Congress froze 10 per cent of Turkey's \$365 million in U.S. military aid in August, pending a human rights review.

"They are aware there are problems... I was struck by the fact that all the Turkish officials I talked to thought about the need to bring full human rights to Turkey... through legal means and through strict enforcement of existing laws and through improvement of some of those laws," Mr. Holbrooke said.

His visit also came at a time when Turkey is troubled about a proposal by some U.S. lawmakers to deny U.S. aid to Turkey for refusing the transfer of supplies to Armenian refugees through Turkey.

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"He died on Monday night. It was quite peaceful. He passed away at home with Sarah (his wife actress Sarah Miles) beside him," said a spokeswoman for Bolt's agent Casarotto Ramsay.

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Mr. Holbrooke said the Turkish and Armenian relations should be improved.

"On Turkish-Armenian relations, which is so frayed with history, emotion, misunderstanding and conflicting views of history, our view is very simple. Your two countries... must find way to move on to the future."

## Canadians seek Clinton support in Quebec row

OTTAWA (R) — Supporters and foes of Quebec independence both hope to use a state visit by President Bill Clinton to Canada this week to promote their causes.

But U.S. officials said Mr. Clinton will try to stay out of the internal squabble during the two-day trip starting Thursday.

Mr. Clinton will hold extensive talks with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and will meet briefly Friday with Lucien Bouchard, the leader of the Quebec separatist party in the Canadian parliament.

Government officials said Mr. Chretien will tell Mr. Clinton privately what he says to Canadians publicly, that he has faith in the fate of the country.

The government of French-speaking Quebec plans to hold a referendum sometime this year on whether the province should secede from Canada.

"I am going to explain to him that ours is not an anti-American project. To the contrary," Mr. Bouchard was quoted as saying.

Mr. Bouchard also plans to underline that Quebecers are free traders and strong supporters of the free trade agreement with the United States, and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Quebec separatists have been saying that if the province separates, it would quickly seek to join NAFTA. This has stirred controversy because both the United States and Canada have made it clear that membership in NAFTA would not be automatic.

"Obviously they (Quebec separatists) want the Americans to see them as not being a major economic or political threat and to show they are not radicals," said University of Toronto political scientist Richard Simeon.

"What the (separatists) also want to show is that they are taken seriously by other countries. The more they can show that they are on reasonable good terms with the United States, the better it is for them," he said.

## EU fails to agree on animal transport compromise

BRUSSELS (R) — European Union (EU) farm ministers failed to agree a compromise to improve conditions for animals transported for slaughter and will try again possibly next month.

Neighbours Armenia and Turkey have been enemies for decades because of claims that up to 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in 1915. Turkey denies any such massacre.

Mr. Holbrooke said the Turkish and Armenian relations should be improved.

"On Turkish-Armenian relations, which is so frayed with history, emotion, misunderstanding and conflicting views of history, our view is very simple. Your two countries... must find way to move on to the future."

flesh-eating disease.

Mr. Bouchard ruffled some feathers in Ottawa by writing directly to Mr. Clinton to ask for the meeting. At first, Mr. Chretien reacted coolly to the request but decided to allow the meeting to avoid making it a major issue.

Mr. Bouchard became leader of the official opposition in Canada's parliament in October 1993 after his Bloc Quebecois party won most of the seats in Quebec.

Mr. Bouchard told the Quebec City newspaper *Le Soleil* this week he hopes to convince Mr. Clinton to adopt an attitude of benevolent neutrality towards Quebec independence.

He said he will remind Mr. Chretien that Quebec separatists have been democratically-elected, and will only separate if a majority of Quebec citizens vote for independence in the referendum.

Government officials said Mr. Chretien will tell Mr. Clinton privately what he says to Canadians publicly, that he has faith in the fate of the country.

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## 84 foreign stars named to culture order

PARIS (AFP) — Eighty-four foreign celebrities were among the class of 1994 receiving France's highest cultural order, the Culture Ministry said here Tuesday. The stars named to the various ranks of the Order of Arts and Letters include 38 from the silver screen, and 29 and 14 from the worlds of music and literature respectively.

Those weighing in with the highest grade of Commander included U.S. actress Lauren Bacall and legendary movie directors, Americans Blake Edwards and Stanley Kubrick and Italian Franco Zeffirelli. They were joined by conductor Sir Georg Solti and a clutch of opera singers including Italian soprano Mirella Freni and Renata Scotti and German baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and U.S. author John Updike. The order's new Officers included thespians Mia Farrow, Michael Caine, Dustin Hoffman, Vanessa Redgrave, and Meryl Streep, and directors Steven Spielberg, Pedro Almodovar, Peter Greenaway and James Ivory.

Added to the ranks of the Knights, meanwhile, were British mezzo-soprano Dame Janet Baker and writer Julian Barnes.

**Madonna: I'll**

**quit when I'm bored**

LONDON (R) — Rock superstar Madonna said she won't quit singing until she gets bored. Faced with a barrage of personal questions at a London press conference, she said she was not pregnant and went all coy when asked to name her latest boyfriend. Madonna was visiting London for the first time in two years — to appear as the opening act at the Brit Awards, the music industry Oscars. She said she was almost 99 per cent sure she would go on tour again with her latest album and looked forward with eager anticipation to her starring role in the film of *Evita*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Alan Parker (who made the hit film musical *The Commitments*) will be directing and he is out looking for locations now. I would like to make it in Buenos Aires," she said after landing the coveted role. Reporters from Britain's tabloids outdid each other in trying to put the most facile question to one of the world's most enduring rock stars. "No I am not pregnant," said the ramshackle star who has been through almost as many changes of image as rock chameleon David Bowie. Asked who her latest boyfriend was, she shyly twisted her blonde hair and said: "He is not a basketball player or a bulldozer." Asked what she would like any son or daughter of hers to know about her, Madonna said: "I wouldn't hide anything. I would like them to know me completely."

**Hanks defends Forrest Gump at Harvard awards**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass (R) — In order to earn the "pudding pot" from Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals Troupe, Oscar nominee Tom Hanks had to throw darts at pictures of his opponents.

Hanks, who has been nominated as best actor for *Forrest Gump*, had to play "nail the nominees," throwing darts at pictures of fellow best actor nominees, including Paul Newman and John Travolta.

Officer Lange testified that police scaled the wall of O.J. Simpson's estate after his ex-wife's murder because they feared someone inside might be "bleeding or worse" after they saw what appeared to be blood on his car.

As the fourth week of testimony got underway in Simpson's double-murder trial, Detective Lange said investigators found a red stain near the driver's door handle of the white Ford Bronco while police were trying to contact someone inside the broad-winged mansion.

Officer Lange said he was also worried because the Bronco was found parked at a "funny angle," with its rear sitting party in the street, and no one was answering inside despite repeated calls by cellular phone.

Even though police had not yet obtained a search warrant, Officer Lange said he ordered detective Mark Fuhrman to climb the wall surrounding the multimillion-dollar estate and open the gate.

"I felt that someone inside that house might be a victim of a crime, might be bleeding or worse, so we decided to go in," Officer Lange said under questioning by Ms. Clark.

Police have said that at the time Simpson was not a suspect in the murders of his ex-wife.

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Workers of the Sarajevo morgue unload dead bodies from a U.N. truck. The mortal remains of ten Bosnian soldiers, who were killed in action a few months ago and previously

buried in the Serb cemetery in Lukavica, were exhumed with the corpses of seven Serb soldiers in a recent exchange of war-victims (AFP photo)

## U.K., Ireland unveil N. Ireland peace plans

BELFAST (R) — Britain and Ireland launched bold plans for a Northern Ireland political settlement Wednesday, gambling that six months of peace would persuade reluctant Protestants to give the historic proposals a chance.

British Prime Minister John Major, bidding to end years of bloodshed, appealed to the people of the British-ruled province to shed the prejudices of the past and judge the "framework document" strictly on its merits.

"Read it, study it, think about it, discuss it, talk about it... let it mature. Think of the overall prize that lies at the end," Mr. Major implored them at a press conference.

"This is not the time for snap judgements," Mr. Major, flanked by his Irish counterpart John Bruton, told a news conference. "We have travelled a long way but not yet far enough... the dialogue of the deaf has ended."

The three-point plan, which includes a new Northern Ireland Assembly and cross-border bodies to cement trust and economic cooperation, ran into hostility from Protestant Unionists who fear it will end British sovereignty in the province.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the hardline Demo-

catic Unionist Party, termed the document, fruit of two years Anglo-Irish negotiations, "an eviction notice (for Northern Ireland to) leave the United Kingdom."

Mr. Bruton and Mr. Major dismissed such fears as unfounded and said the plan was in essence a discussion document to be approved at all-party talks, ratified in a Northern Ireland referendum and then submitted to parliament.

"It is a framework for discussion not a blueprint to be imposed over the heads of anyone," Mr. Bruton said. "Its purpose is to facilitate not to pre-empt dialogue."

The "framework document" seeks to capitalise on ceasefire in September by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which fought to end British rule for 25 years, and loyalist gunmen who killed Catholics in a campaign to maintain the link with London.

It proposes:

— Setting up a new 90-seat Northern Ireland Assembly elected by proportional representation to share power between the 60 per cent Protestant majority and Catholic minority.

— Changing Britain's and Ireland's constitutional claims to Northern Ireland to put the onus on its people to work out new relationships

within the province and with Ireland.

— Setting up a cross-border body from the assembly and Irish parliament to oversee economic cooperation. Its decisions would have to be reached by unanimity giving all sides a veto.

— Strengthening current Anglo-Irish cooperation through a permanent inter-governmental conference and then submitted to parliament.

— Drafting a bill of rights to safeguard the cultural and civil rights of Unionists and nationalists, mostly Catholics.

Mr. Bruton told the news conference: "The ending of all campaigns of paramilitary violence last autumn has created an unrivalled opportunity for such dialogue to take place with the reasonable prospect of a successful conclusion."

The IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, and groups close to loyalist gunmen are holding exploratory talks with Britain. But Mr. Major made clear the "decommissioning" of their arsenals was vital, if they wanted to join new all-party talks.

Constitutional change and a new assembly are key demands of Unionists, but they have repeatedly threatened to bring down Mr. Major's embattled minority government if they believe the proposals could only change by majority consent.

The broad thrust of the proposals would seek to blur the border between the two neighbours in the frontierless Europe of the 1990s, despite the fact that fearful Unionists want the border strengthened by constitutional guarantees.

It has echoes of a 1973 British power-sharing plan which was wrecked by diehard Unionists who saw it as a blueprint for merger with the 3.5 million people of the Irish Republic.

The "Summerville Agreement" set up a power-sharing assembly and planned to establish a cross-border Council of Ireland to get all sides talking, but was torpedoed by Unionist politicians and a strike by Protestant workers.

Osals will push the province towards Irish reunification.

The assembly will hold the key to future relationships with the Irish Republic and replace a Protestant-dominated assembly which Britain scrapped in 1972 because of civil strife.

The document repeats key provisions of the December 1993 Downing Street Declaration issued by the London and Dublin governments which forced the guerrillas' political spokesmen into talks by saying the province's status could only change by majority consent.

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The rebels, who are loyal to businessman-politician Fikret Abdic, and the Serbs had held up the convoy for two days. It hopes to reach Bihać town, where the Sarajevo government's 5th Corps and thousands of civilians are trapped.

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The rebels

## Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

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## Time on nobody's side

CHAIRMAN YASSER Arafat's crisis meeting with his Executive Committee in Cairo Tuesday reflects the gloom that surrounds the stalled Israeli-Palestinian talks. "The process must be re-examined in a radical and sweeping way," suggested Yasir Abed Rabbo, a close confidant of Mr. Arafat, in the wake of the Cairo meeting.

The PLO's answer to the existing logjam in the peace talks, though, appears to lie in greater and deeper regional involvement by parties ranging from Egypt to the U.S. to Russia to Norway. Pinning hopes on such wider participation may still prove fruitless in settling the major standoffs between the parties, especially over the redeployment of the Israeli occupying forces away from the urban areas and holding the national Palestinian elections, already seven months behind schedule. For one thing, Israel is not known to handle well regional or international pressures, assuming that such powers want to exercise their clout in defence of the peace talks on Palestinian autonomy.

For another, a country like the U.S., which enjoys special relations with the Jewish state, that can be used to save the Palestinian track from imminent collapse, may not wish to apply leverage with Israel at this particular point in time.

That leaves us to grapple with the Israeli public opinion which also seems too negative for the time being to want to accelerate peace talks with the Palestinians. And with the way the political cards are stacked in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may not be able to go farther than he has already in meeting legitimate demands by the Palestinian authority according to the obligations of the 1993 Declaration of Principles.

There is therefore every reason to be pessimistic about the ongoing efforts to defuse the Palestinian-Israeli deadlock. But any eventual collapse in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in conjunction with the current stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts could prove to be extremely detrimental to regional peace and security. When the existing major differences between Egypt and Israel are also added to the pile of negative news, the emerging picture may indeed unravel three years of work to promote peace in the Middle East. Prime Minister Rabin and his constituency may have to reckon with these ramifications if they truly want to collect on the huge investment they made so far in the peace operation.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday criticised Jordanian opposition parties whose members recently paid a visit to Syria, implying that they meant harm to Jordan's political stand. Fahd Al Fanek said the political parties that visited Damascus did not go there to meet their counterparts of opposition groups simply because there is no opposition parties in Syria. They went in order to make contacts with the ruling regime in Damascus, said the writer. He asked: Does the Political Party Law allow political groups in Jordan to make contacts with governments abroad? He said that the political parties did not go to Damascus to demand that Syria have political pluralism like Jordan or to demand the release of political detainees who have spent more than 25 years in jail for opposing the regime or to demand that Syria stop its secret or open negotiations with Israel. These political parties consider Jordan as constituting the southern flank of greater Syria; and this description is true geographically, he added. But, he said, what is not acceptable is to seek to annex Jordan to Syria politically, so that the Kingdom would assume a role similar to that of Lebanon on the western flank.

SALEH QALLAB, a writer in Al Dustour, said Israel was trying to find a pretext at all costs to avoid signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) claiming that Iran posed a nuclear threat to the Jewish state. Stressing that the 200 or so nuclear warheads at Israel's disposal constitute a permanent danger to the Arabs and Iran together, the writer said Tel Aviv's intransigence in this respect was bound to push the whole Middle East towards a nuclear arms race, with serious consequences for all its countries. Had Israel complied to U.N. resolutions and pulled out its forces from southern Lebanon, Hezbollah would have not emerged as a resistance group to occupation, and had Israel implemented the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians and pulled out its forces from Palestinian territory; there would have been no suicide bombing against the Israelis, he said. Had Israel not possessed nuclear bombs, the Middle East would have been a safer place and the prospect for Arabs and Muslims seeking to acquire similar weapons would not have been contemplated.

By Samia Nakhoui  
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt is playing a high-stakes poker game with Israel and the United States over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), risking a split in the triple alliance which has been the cornerstone of Middle East peace since 1979.

Everybody is sure Egypt will fail to drag Israel into signing the NPT, which has already brought relations between the two states to the lowest ebb in years.

So the question puzzling the West is why Egypt, famous for its skilled diplomacy, is taking such a risk by talking tough on Israel's nuclear programme.

Western diplomats link Egypt's attitude with the changes brought about by the rapid progress towards Middle East peace.

The peace process, they say, has shown that Egypt is ultimately dispensable. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel without Egyptian help or consultation and the Syrians do not need the Egyptians either, though they continue to use them.

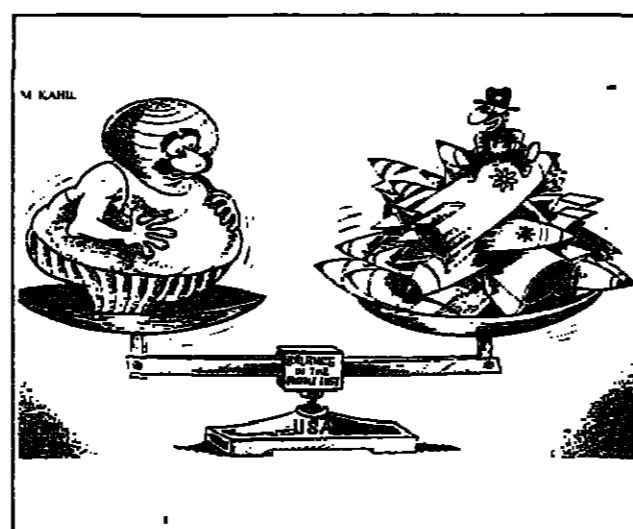
Middle East peace, with normal relations between Israel and the oil-rich Gulf states, would bring a flood of business opportunities

but Egypt, the diplomats say, is not well positioned to reap the fruits.

"They want to become once again the leaders of the Arab World. They are playing what they are best at — the political card since they have no economic power like Israel," one said.

The rise of Muslim fundamentalism also makes any tough stand against Israel popular in the streets, both of Egypt and the rest of the Arab World, the diplomats added.

The signs of Egypt's anxiety began last year with the Middle East economic summit in Casablanca, where half the businessmen were apparently Israelis, they



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## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

### When they have problems, journalists know where to go

AT a press meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and members of the foreign press corps posted in Jordan, it was inevitable perhaps that after a frank and open discussion took place the focus would turn to problems representatives of these news agencies and organisations face in the technical side of conducting their work in the Kingdom. It did, and the most concern voiced by the journalists was over official handling of their business and the impact of this on Jordanian hopes for Amman to become an attractive centre for international reporters covering the Middle East. The King referred to a petition submitted only days earlier to Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem spelling out the foreign correspondents' grievances. In the petition, signed by 12 correspondents, the latter cited two recent incidents which they evaluated as serious examples of encumbrances to their work. First was the visit of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Aqaba in the third week of January. Journalists were contacted a day earlier and told that VIP, presumably an Arab head of state, was coming to Aqaba. Try telling the main office that they should be prepared at "some time" to get a report and footage on the arrival of an "unknown guest" to Aqaba, said one foreign agency correspondent, and you could imagine the kind of reaction you would get from your boss at home. Then there was the call to Hashemiyeh Palace where members of a visiting team from the Israeli Knesset were to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Again the press was kept waiting from 5.30 p.m. (when many of them and their crews would be breaking their daily Ramadan fast) only to be told throughout their wait that no one could tell them who they would be seeing and in what format. Hours later, tired and weary and still uncertain of an appointment, the journalists decided against waiting. Such incidents are an imposition, say the journalists, and take valuable time away from their other commitments in and out of their offices. Genuinely concerned, His Majesty went beyond the petition, asking the press in attendance at the meeting to be entirely candid in expressing their views. When they did, King Hussein, ever-gracious, apologised for the state of affairs and called for quick action from all concerned authorities to rectify the situation. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who was present at the meeting, announced that an official spokesperson would be appointed very soon to deal with the press.

At that, the foreign media, pleased with the announcement, expressed their concern that the individual chosen should be one who would not only be able to articulate information and positions but would actually be properly supplied with information. Tipped to be the spokesperson in question is Ministry of Information Secretary General Navef Maula, formerly number-two person at the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, who went on to become ambassador to both Indonesia and Brazil. The second major grievance involved the technical obstacles to accomplishing the correspondents' tasks in the Kingdom. The journalists listed exorbitant communication rates, deteriorating telephone connections, restrictive customs regulations hindering efforts to upgrade their operations, as well as other technical frustrations. Following the meeting, some

movement between the Prime Ministry, the ministries of Information and Communication and the Royal Court. At a meeting at the Prime Ministry last Sunday with Sharif Zeid, two deputy prime ministers and ministers of state for Prime Ministry affairs as well as the ministers of finance and post and communications, His Majesty stressed the need for extending facilities to the local and foreign media to have access to modern means of communications and telecommunications so that the Kingdom will be rightly considered as a distinguished centre for world media. The foreign press say they are hopeful that action promised will be realised.

AN OLD-HAND AT A NEW JOB: Visiting Jordan for four days, the new head of the British Foreign Office Middle East Department, Peter Ford, made a swift tour, met with officials in formal settings as well as at a dinner hosted by Ambassador Hinchliffe, at whose residence Ford was also a house guest. Guests at the dinner included Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Michel Mario and his wife Lucy, Senator and former foreign minister Kamel Abu Jaber and his wife Lorretta, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan and his wife Virginia, Reuters Amman Bureau Chief Jack Redden and his wife Cathy, BBC Jordan correspondent Lyse Dusette, and the European Union envoy Yves Gazzo and his wife Nikola. While he was here Ford, who was deputy chief of mission in Singapore, met up with Dame Elizabeth Anson, independent monitor, who was here to examine visa refusals for the British Foreign Office. The two visited Petra and Ajloun together. Unfortunately there was not enough time for Ford to accept a dinner by Jordanian parliamentarians whom he himself had hosted when their delegation was in London. But the chance to reciprocate will surely present itself as Ford, who is an old-hand in the Middle East, with previous postings in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, has only been on the job at the F.O. for three months. Besides, his new position should give him the opportunity to travel to Jordan more frequently. This quick junket to Jordan was his first in nearly 20 years.

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TAKING UP FAMILIAR REIGNS: Former minister for social welfare and former parliament deputy Awni Bashir this week took over as executive director of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). A graduate of Cairo University, Dr. Bashir, a surgeon, talked to the J.T. between surgeries at the Jordan Centre for Family Medicine, about his vision for the QAF. Dr. Bashir said the fund was "unique in its ability to mobilise human and material resources and to use them in a most effective way to improve the equality of life for a large number of people in Jordan." According to Dr. Bashir, who served as minister during the mandate of former Prime Minister Taher Masri, the fund is a truly grass-root organisation that promotes independence, personal initiative, self help and communal life and cuts across gender, sectorial and geographic biases in

existing social structures and orthodox developmental activities. He said it was an honour for him to be called upon "to join in the sincere efforts of QAF towards the development and the welfare of the Jordanian society." Dr. Bashir is the son of the late Mohammad Bashir who had served as health minister in the seventies and died in the tragic accident that took the life of Queen Alia in 1977. Al Bashir Hospital in Aqaba bears his namesake in his memory. The young and well-liked new QAF chief hails from Salt where in 1993 his bid for relection to Parliament did not succeed, largely as a result of the one-man, one-vote formula that was introduced to the electoral system earlier on. His is an energetic lineage which should prove him to be an experienced and dedicated asset to all he endeavours to accomplish, his friends say.

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Dr. Hani Mulki

JORDAN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT: Development of another sort took place last week when at a meeting in New Delhi, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President, Secretary General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) and co-chairman of the follow-up committee for the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty Hani Mulki was elected president of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organisations (WAITRO). The Copenhagen-based WAITRO was created in 1970 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to act as liaison for the exchange of ideas, information and experience, and for cooperation, coordination and mutual support among its membership of various research and development institutes, and private, semi-governmental and governmental organisations from more than 70 coun-

tries. Dr. Mulki, who has headed the RSS since 1989, represents the second Arab country to hold the WAITRO presidency. Egypt was first in the 70s. According to Dr. Mulki, "it was the good work of our institutes that got me elected, and with this presidency comes the opportunity to promote Jordan's ideas and contributions in the areas of science and technology." The young Dr. Mulki received his Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute founded in 1824 in Troy, New York. Married with two children, Dr. Mulki's new hat will take him from Amman to Copenhagen once every two months to ensure that WAITRO's programme of international and regional cooperation is succeeding and related funding allocations fall within the designated science and technology mandate.

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STANDING ROOM ONLY: As Iran's National Day fell with the onset of Ramadan, Tehran's envoy to Jordan Ahmad Dastmalian hosted a post iftar reception at the Marriott Hotel attended by a considerably larger than usual crowd including British Ambassador Peter Hinchliffe, Canadian Ambassador Andrew Robinson, Iraqi Ambassador Nouri Ismail Al Wais, and South African Charge d'Affaires A.B. Green. Guests commenting on the turn-out mused whether relations had moved up the temperature scale and that further understandings were being finalised. Then also it was the beginning of Ramadan which brings many people together, some said.

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LOOK WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN: With the announcements in the areas of social and technology development, the J.T. this week recorded its own communications first when it received a piece of



Signed, sealed and delivered

correspondence transmitted via what many may consider an outdated method: Good old-fashioned regular post. The novelty here is that the mail received bore state of Israel postage stamps and Israeli and Jordanian postal office cancellation imprints. From the markings we were unable to deduce whether the posted item was sent airmail and thus had to arrive in Jordan via Cyprus, or whether indeed it was delivered by ground transportation across the newly-opened borders. Meanwhile philatelists at the J.T. are heatedly bidding for the coveted stamps, if only for their historic worth.

Jennifer Hamarneh

### Jordanians get diplomas 'from all over the world'

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the  
Jordan Times

AMMAN — When Jordanian graduates come to the Ministry of Higher Education, Maysun Khatib sees diplomas "from all over the world, from east to west."

Ministry counts echo the words of Ms. Khatib, who is director of student affairs there. Khalil Hindi, director of statistics at the ministry, notes that the number of Jordanians who travel abroad to obtain university degrees has declined significantly over the last decade. During the 1983-1984 academic year, 45,000 chose to do so. But a full decade later, and after the number of public and private universities in Jordan has more than quadrupled, Mr. Hindi estimates that a full third of Jordan's university students, or roughly 31,000 of them, were nonetheless enrolled in colleges outside Jordan

for the academic year 1993-94.

The list of countries these students choose is myriad — everywhere from the United States, long a traditional staple for college-age students in the Kingdom, to Romania, Russia, Pakistan, the Philippines and more. Even China has not escaped the list.

Jordanian students continue to go abroad for multiple reasons, according to Mr. Hindi. There are some, he noted, who are students from wealthy families who can afford the higher costs of universities in the West, and choose them for their educational values, while others are simply curious about foreign lands and cultures.

Tariq Ayyoub, now a correspondent at the Associated Press in Amman, had another reason — tight finances. Even though he had an admission from Yarmouk University in hand, "I simply

couldn't afford to pay the costs of university life in the Jordan." So he went to study at Calicut University in southern India. "A student here has to pay perhaps JD400 a month to get by, with class fees and everything," Mr. Ayyoub said. "In India, I was able to do it on JD70 a month."

There is another phenomenon in all of this, however, which causes worry among many education experts in Jordan. Although no exact statistics exist to gauge the trend, experts say that a significant number of students go abroad because they have failed to achieve the minimum Tawjiji score of 60 set by the government for admission to any four-year universities in Jordan. These students are then willing to travel abroad to find practically any university in any country with standards loose enough to accept them.

Not only do a number of the countries — which

these students often end up in, such as Russia, the Philippines and India — have higher educational systems with many question marks about their calibre of teaching, said Ms. Khatib, "we also find forged certificates from these countries, or diplomas which have been sold to the student without any time actually spent in the classroom."

Foremost among these countries is Russia. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ms. Khatib said, universities there have fallen well outside any centralised monitoring system of their programmes, and academics and ethics within them have fallen to a shady level. Nonetheless, 3,376 Jordanian students had chosen to enrol there during the last academic year, 544 of whom were specialising in medicine. And in the last few years, Russian universities have become a "big seller" at commercial admissions offices in Jordan, which basically sell students

admissions to foreign universities, Ms. Khatib said.

India, with 2,029 Jordanian students enrolled during 1993-94, is another such question mark, according to educational experts. "Many of our students who go to India never even attend school there," said one university administrator here who preferred anonymity. "But somehow, they manage to come up with a diploma anyway."

Mr. Ayyoub asserted that he personally had received a sound education in India. However, he otherwise concurred with the general opinion of the experts. "India does have quite a number of excellent universities," he said. "But at many of them, especially in the north, you can buy anything you want, whether it is the answer sheet to an exam or the graduation diploma itself. Corruption is rampant among their staff and teachers."

Meanwhile, administrators at private universities

inside Jordan have repeatedly called on the Council of Higher Education to lower the 60 mark for the private universities, she would be for it. "I prefer this, and prefer to see less students going abroad."

But another educational expert felt that lowering the 60s mark could prove to be a double-edged sword. "If they do go below 60, they will compromise the quality of higher education in Jordan," said Janine Tal, director of AMIDEAST in Amman, a private agency which counsels students about studying in the United States. A Tawjiji score below 60 is a strong indicator that the student probably does not have the ability to pursue university studies, she said, and "you simply don't do justice to the college or the student by taking him in, and then having him fail out."

As for the council's stand on the matter, "every year there is a heated debate among its members on whether to lower

the 60s mark or not," said Dr. Ahmad Husban, secretary-general of the Ministry of Higher Education. However, he said, the issue was not likely to be reviewed again by the council until the beginning of the 1995-96 academic year.

A university administrator who declined to be named saw the issue in a different light. "I believe Jordan simply has too many university students, period," he said. Due to longstanding traditions and pressures in Jordanian society, he said, "every parent in Jordan insists that his children have to have a university education." Thus, he explained, too many refuse the idea of sending them to vocational schools, where they may actually be able to acquire training more suitable to their aptitudes. And more certain to have a university education.

Meanwhile, the council's stand on the matter, "every year there is a heated debate among its members on whether to lower

### Monopoly celebrates 60th birthday

By Frank Baker  
The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — Monopoly, the board game that rewards players for sending their competition into bankruptcy, is turning 60. Since it was introduced by Parker Brothers in February 1935 during the depths of the depression, more than 160 million

copies have been purchased. It is sold in 45 countries and printed in 25 languages, including Icelandic, Arabic, Croatian and Russian.

To mark the birthday, "Rich Uncle Pennybags," the character on millions of Monopoly boxes, rang the opening bell at the American Stock Exchange in New York. Parker Brothers is a subsidiary of

Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based Hasbro Inc., whose shares are traded on the exchange.

Edward Parker, former president of Parker Brothers, once said the appeal of Monopoly is "clobbering your best friend without doing any damage."

"When you come to the table, everyone comes equal. Everyone starts

with the same amount of money," said Bob Wann, senior vice president of marketing for Hasbro Games Group. "The game plays simply enough that an 8-year-old can play, but it's still challenging enough for an adult.

Players may "build" hotels and houses on their properties and charge "rent" to players who land on them.

Everyone starts with \$1,500 and collects \$200 each time they complete one trip around the board, but may be sent to jail, fined or awarded money after landing on certain squares. Players drop out as they become bankrupt.

Versions sold in other countries are altered to appeal to those citizens, Mr. Wann said. For instance, Boardwalk becomes

Mayfair in England, Rue de la Paix in France and Schlossallee in Germany. Currencies also vary from country to country.

Monopoly was invented by Charles Darrow in 1933. The first board was actually an oil cloth on his kitchen table and was

comprised of properties named after streets in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Darrow eventually sold

the rights to Parker Brothers, which started producing the game in 1935. The company couldn't say how much it paid for the rights and isn't sure how much money it has made off the game.

It acknowledges, however, the profit margin is something Uncle Pennybags would be proud of.

Bertrand Tavernier film, an imaginary The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas' *Fille De D'Artagnan's Daughter* with Sophie Marceau. It give the full meat talents as an actress appear at once popular and full of life, an actress in top

By Anne Rapin

and a Sophie Marceau was a natural for the part of the fearless daughter of one of France's most popular mythical heroes.

The French actress has come to represent France abroad as well as in her compatriots' minds. She has been dreaming of a role like this one — of which there are too few in French popular fiction —



On stage in G.B. Shaw's

## Removable storage

By Jean-Claude Elias

Sophisticated PC software and the huge size of the data they generate have made large capacity hard disks an essential component of any computer, whether used at home or in the office. While delighted to own and operate giant disks, users have found that the bigger the capacity of the disk, the greater their need for a security back up. Making additional copies (called back up) of one's work has become vital. No one can afford to lose, in a split second, days, weeks or months of work just because of a machine failure, an electrical problem or simply an operator's mistake. The only guarantee against such accidents is making sure of having extra copies of the hard disk contents.

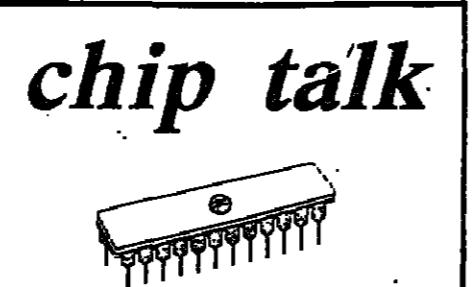
As it has recently been mentioned in this column, in less than ten years the average PC fixed, internal hard disk has grown from a ridiculous 10MB (ten million bytes or characters) to 300MB while the physical size was at the same time reduced by almost 70 per cent. The cost per MB was JD40 in 1986. It is now JD0.7 or 700 fils.

In order to back up large amounts of software and data, one does not only need fast and cost effective hardware, practical and "open" solutions are important as well. Removability and expandability are the keys elements in such a case. Therefore adding hard disks like the ones that are fixed inside the PC casing, is not the ideal answer.

Regular floppy disks are too slow at copying and anyway cannot store more than 1.4MB each. The floptical media launched two years ago was supposed to become a standard. Floptical disks could hold 21MB of data, are small - 3.5" - and reasonably priced. Moreover the drive unit required to operate them could also process regular floppy disks. For an unknown reason, floptical disks never really made it. They seem to have disappeared from the market.

The two well established standards in removable storage solutions are the magnetic tape and the removable hard disk cartridge. There are naturally other removable devices like the Bernoulli, the Worm and the Writeable-Erasable CD-ROM optical disks for instance, however their cost doesn't make them available to the mere mortal.

Both the tape and the disk cartridge use special drives that can either be installed permanently in the PC cabinet or be placed externally next to it, connected only by a data cable. Once the drive is installed, one can buy as many tapes or cartridges as needed. The important, common feature is removability. One can take the tape (or disk) out of its drive,



### chip talk

put it safely in another place, insert another in the drive, and so forth. Complete software libraries can be built this way and several sets of back ups can be easily made. I know of many users who will not go to sleep before making a daily data back up of their work.

Tapes are available, typically in 120, 250 and 500MB formats. Hard disk cartridges exist in 44, 88, 120 and 270MB formats. The price per MB is about 100 fils for the tape and 200 fils for the disk. The latter however performs by far better although the initial cost of the disk drive is higher than the tape drive — almost double.

Removable hard disk cartridges are as fast as internal fixed disks, that is about 30 times faster than the tape. Also, streaming tapes cannot be used for processing but only for copying — hard disk cartridges can. The disk's reliability factor is better than the tape's and its error rate much lower. For a little difference in price, using a removable hard disk cartridge instead of a streamer tape makes perfect sense.

Another important aspect of the removable disk is its easy operation. Once installed, you can treat it like a regular hard disk and use on it all the DOS or Windows commands you are familiar with and that you would use with the main, internal hard disk "C". If you do not have an internal hard disk at all, you can even make the removable cartridge "bootable", that is install MS-DOS operating system on it and work it as your main hard disk.

Size wise, both formats are very small and extremely convenient to store in a drawer, a filing cabinet or even in your pocket. The streaming tape is slightly larger than a standard audio cassette and the hard disk cartridge is only 3.5" wide, just like a small floppy disk, but a little thicker.

With the spiraling increase in data storage needs, it is expected that a streamer tape or a removable hard disk cartridge will soon become a standard equipment of personal computers.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

I have missed you. Lekd iftakad'toka.  
It's up to you. Al-amr matrukon isk.  
Take it easy. Haw'wen alaik.  
Have heart. Kon rahman.  
That's fine. Haza shay jamil.  
I don't mind at all. La omani' italaikan.  
It's nothing to do with us. Laysal-amr yanina be-shay.  
Please yourself. If'al ma tasha.  
Far be it from you. Hasha lil-lah.  
They're in a fix. Innahom fe warta.  
Let bygones be bygones. Afal-lah amma salaf.  
Charity begins at home. Al-aqraboon awla bel-ma'roof.

### JOKES

A little boy went into the confessional and said to the priest, "Father, I threw peanuts into the river." The priest couldn't see much harm in that, so he gave the lad a light penance. Another boy entered the box and said, "Father, I threw peanuts into the river. The priest was again puzzled, but not wishing to show his confusion sent the second boy away with a light penance. But in came another youngster — he'd thrown peanuts into the river as well — and the next boy, and the next! Then a very tiny little mite came in, and the priest said, "And I suppose you threw peanuts into the river." "No father, said the boy." "I am Peanuts!"

★ ★ ★ ★

\* COUNCIL (to medical witness): "And even doctors, I suppose, makes mistakes sometimes." MEDICAL WITNESS: "Yes, just as lawyers do." COUNCIL: "But the mistakes doctors make are often buried beneath the ground."

MEDICAL WITNESS: "And lawyers' mistakes swing in the air."

★ ★ ★ ★

\* Philip, asked the chemistry teacher, "What is  $\text{HNO}_3$ ?" "Oh, er....just a minute, Miss...er....it's on the tip of my tongue, Miss...." "Well, in that case, spit it out. It's a nitric acid!!!"

★ ★ ★ ★

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Concorde, the world's fastest airliner is manufactured by two companies. Name them.
2. The planet Uranus was discovered on March, 13, 1781. By whom?
3. Whom did the author George Bernard Shaw describe as the "most beautiful human being I have ever seen"?
4. Whom said "women hold up half the sky?"

5. What is a concerto? A battle?  
6. What is ethnocentrism?  
7. What is the scale measuring the force of winds at sea called?

### COOKING IS FUN

#### WHITE BEAN DELIGHT

**INGREDIENTS:**  
1 tsp vegetable oil  
1/2 green pepper finely chopped  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
1 stick celery, diced  
175g tomatoes, skinned  
115g cooked white beans  
1 large potato, peeled and diced  
1 tbsp finely chopped parsley  
1/2 cup vegetable stock or water  
salt and pepper

**METHOD:** Heat the oil in a pan, then add the pepper, onion and celery and saute until the onion begins to brown. Add the tomatoes plus the potato, stock, parsley salt and pepper. Simmer for about 30 minutes or until the liquid is reduced by half. Add the beans and heat through gently for 5-10 minutes. Garlic bread goes well with this dish.

To make a more substantial main course dish, follow the recipe to the end, place in a casserole dish and top with a crumble mixture and bake in a hot oven for 25 minutes.

### PUZZLES

**ROUND THE GLOBE**  
All the words below will be found in the illustration. Some read up, down, sideways, and even backwards. How many can you find?

AUSTRALIA	IRAN
BELGIUM	ISRAEL
BRAZIL	ITALY
CANADA	JAPAN
CHINA	NORWAY
DENMARK	PANAMA
EGYPT	PERU
FINLAND	PORTUGAL
FRANCE	SWEDEN
INDIA	TURKEY

C	P	E	R	U	M						
Y	A	W	R	O	N	L					
D	E	N	M	A	K	U	Y	B			
I	N	K	A	L	E	A	R	S	I	E	C
R	A	R	D	E	G	Y	P	T	N	L	H
A	L	U	A	I	D	N	I	R	T	G	I
N	N	T	P	A	N	A	M	A	I	I	N
L	I	Z	A	R	B	V	T	L	T	U	A
R	F	R	A	N	C	E	M	I	A	M	O
E	P	O	R	T	U	G	A	L	K		
I	S	W	E	D	E	N	Y				
L	J	A	P	A	N						

## Are you still waiting for the punchline?

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaaen

Ancient Greek theories in philosophy have taught us that the highest degrees of reality are those which we think with our reason and perceive with our senses. Bear with me for a second, if you would, while I try to hammer out an introduction to what I am about to delve into here.

Aristotle, that meticulous organiser and the last of the great Greek philosophers, held that all our thoughts and ideas have come into our consciousness through what we have heard and seen. We have an innate power of reason, but have no innate ideas. Yet, we do have the innate faculty of organising all sensory impressions into categories and classes. This is how concepts such as "stone," "animal," "human," "selfish," "arrogant," "racist," and "idiot" arise.

Unlike animals, we are able to plan our lives. We have the ability to make a "pleasure calculation." Spending money we have saved on a new car is good, but a trip to England is better. But "pleasure" does not necessarily mean sensual pleasure — like buying a car for instance. Values such as friendship also count. Or so I naively thought.

This is where we get into the messy business at hand. Do the words 'Mackintosh Quality Street' ring a bell? It could be a famous brand of chocolate. It could also be, if spelt without the 'K' the name of a brand of computers. But also, Mackintosh, without the 'C', is the name of a monument to archi-texture, a place where glass glows.

The other half of this charade is Bart, not that notorious Simpson family member, nor that famous hospital in London, but Bart Late, a soul mate from London.

You must be by now wondering what do Mackintosh (the monument) and Bart Late have to do with archi-texture? Well, this is a story about archi-texture who were students with Bart Late, and mutants-turned-experts after a brief encounter with Mackintosh.

Over the years I have come to appreciate that great taste of Mackintosh's chocolates, but lately I have discovered that Mackintosh's mutants-turned-experts

(henceforth referred to as creatures) leave a sour aftertaste in one's mouth. They tend to be quite spiteful for some anonymous reason. For example, they have developed the nasty habit of writing anonymous letters to the people you work for just to get you into trouble. There is a word for people like this, and that is sadists. They also crave for the spotlight, but being the kind of slimy creatures they are, they weave their spiteful plots under the cover of darkness.

But what do we do with creatures like these? Do we let them get away with hurting other people? Or do we nip them in the bud?

Personally, I would go for the latter. These creatures should never be allowed to find themselves in the position where they can cause pain to others. But, you see, it is not the position itself which is at fault here, it is in fact abusing that position.

This is this week's revelation about our society and the people we work with. You could say you already knew that. But because I had to write this piece using aliases, hence all the other stuff which I hope was not uninteresting in its own way.

Now comes the crunch, do you let these meddlers be, or do you hit back, hard, real hard? That is the question. The answer is whatever heals your wounds quicker. But the enjoyment of life required the old Greek ideals of self-control, temperance, and serenity. We were taught that desire must be curbed, and that serenity would help us to endure pain.

But our world has grown old, violent and satirical hasn't it?

So, when "the path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the iniquities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men, blessed is he who in the name of charity and goodwill shepherds the weak through the valley of darkness for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to destroy and poison my brothers, and you will know my name is the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon thee!" (Ezekiel 25:17, as adapted by Quentin Tarantino in the movie Pulp Fiction).

All characters and names in this essay are fictional. Not.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 23

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

9:10 The Hat Squad

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Separation

Starring: Rosanna Arquette &amp; David Suchet

The film tells the story of a crippled New York actress and an agoraphobic writer living in London who become strong friends over the trans-Atlantic telephone while discussing the production of a play.

12:00 Bangkok Hilton

Friday, Feb. 24

7:30 Documentary — Science World

8:10 African Skies

Freedom Ranch is quarantined after the sudden, mysterious death of one of the guests, Mr. Reel.

8:45 Desmond's

9:15 Grand Slam

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

12:00 Feature Film — Proud Men

Routine father-and-son conflicts are given conviction by a strong cast led by Charlton Heston and Peter Strauss in this made-for-cable western.

Saturday, Feb. 25

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 You Bet Your Life

8:10 Movies, Games And Videos

9:15 The Cape Rebel

Before he begins his search for the legendary Hercules Fied, Slocot, however, must first clear with the name of James Kerwin, his former captor at Deadwood Camp who has been court-martialed by the British war office.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Another Pair Of Aces: Three Of Kind

Starring: Willie Nelson &amp; Kris Kristofferson

Captain Jack Parsons, a gruff Texas ranger is accused of killing a recently released convict and a sheriff's deputy in an ensuing shoot-out. Now, he is the object of a deadly manhunt.

12:00 Stay The Night

Sunday, Feb. 26

7:30 Documentary — Profiles Of The Muslim World

8:00 Erebus: The Aftermath

9:00 Step By Step

9:30 Heartbeat

Presented by Maha Addassi

10:00 News In English

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ne?

## Sophie Marceau — woman of the day

**Bertrand Tavernier's latest film, an imaginary sequel to The Three Musketeers' adventures by Alexandre Dumas, "Le Fille De D'Artagnan" (D'Artagnan's Daughter) was made for Sophie Marceau. In it, she can give the full measure of her talents as an actress and appear at once popular, generous and full of life. Portrait of an actress in top shape.**

By Anne Kapin

Sophie Marceau was a natural for the part of the fearless daughter of one of France's most popular mythical heroes.

The French actress has come to represent France abroad as well as in her compatriots' minds. She has been dreaming of a role like this one — of which there are too few in French popular fiction —

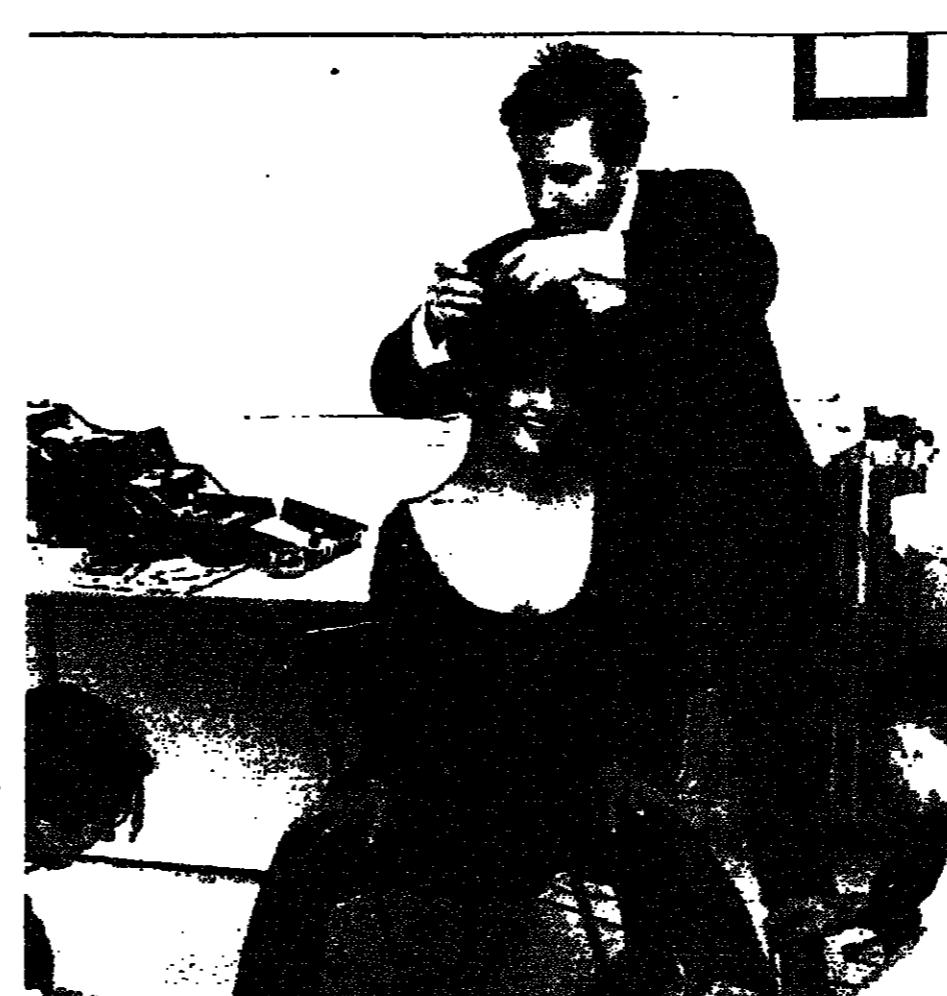
mother's murder and foil a plot against King Louis XIV — a plot that she might have invented herself but that proves to be true — she draws her father, played by Philippe Noiret, as well as his former companions, out of their retirement torpor. She plunges them into a series of adventures, both funny and sad, with frequent allusions to the older cloak and dagger movies on the same theme.

### Amazingly similar

Spirited, daring and avid for justice, with a lust for life, Eloise, the movie's character, looks in more ways than one just like Sophie Marceau. Sophie became a star when she was 13 and her fame reached all of Europe and even Japan with the movie *La Boum* (1980). But after *La Boum II* (1982) she did not hesitate to put a stop to the series, that could have gone on indefinitely, creating an inescapable image of a very serious child from a bourgeois family, which had nothing to do with reality. In real life she comes from a modest, suburban home.

She chose to take risks very early in her career, doing *L'amour Braque* (1984) under the direction of Andrzej Zulawski, renowned for his destructive attitude towards actors. In Maurice Pialat's film she plays a prostitute opposite Gérard Depardieu. In *Police* (1985) or in *Descente Aux Enfers* (1986) by Francis Girod, she plays the part of an ambiguous young woman whose sole preoccupation is to make life hell for her husband, played by Claude Brasseur.

She can give free rein to her idealistic and frustrated feelings in Philippe de Broca's epic *Les*



Sophie Marceau is prepared for the role

*Chouans* (1987) and two more Zulawski movies: *Mes Nuits Sont Plus Belles Que Vos Jours* (1988) with Jacques Dutronc and *La Note Bleue* (1990) in which her portrayal of George Sand's daughter, crushed by her mother's strong personality and jealous of her successes, was hailed by the critics.

But from time to time, her image as just another accessible girl next door, has led her to play parts that, as was the case of *L'Etudiante* (1988) or *Pacific Palisades* (1989), were too superficial and certainly did not contribute much to her career.

This may be the reason why she has turned to the stage for parts that would demand the best of her. While sometimes shun-

ning her, the critics hailed her first theatre part in *Anouilh's Eurydice* for which she received the Molière Award for new talents in 1991. She was again successful in 1993, with G.B. Shaw's *Pygmalion*, with Lambert Wilson.

Very professional and constantly smiling, she grants dozens of interviews before the August première of *La Fille De D'Artagnan*, in which she appeared as a 27-year-old woman, at the top of her form and finally ready to be herself. For the past year or two, she has been giving her own opinion, sometimes annoyingly so, on a variety of subjects having nothing to do with her profession, such as

politics. This personal quest for culture is illustrated by a strong desire to learn, an unquenchable curiosity, a taste for work and the need to find an artistic outlet, the movies being just one revealing "work



Sophie Marceau takes a break during the shooting of 'La Fille De D'Artagnan'

on oneself." At once instinctive and introspective, she constantly asks questions during the shooting, like the reasons behind such or such a scene or the character's psychology.

Clear-minded, Sophie Marceau is fully conscious of the frailty of success. Last August, she told the



Bertrand Tavernier and his star

magazine *Première*: "Nothing is permanent... Just work and willpower." Demanding, sincere, with a will to building a sensible career, Sophie Marceau had long been searching for herself and may have succeeded in *La Fille De D'Artagnan*. At least that is the impression one is left after seeing the movie — *Lebel France*.



On stage in G.B. Shaw's Pygmalion

## At 'Home' with Vanessa Redgrave

By Hillel Italie

The Associated Press  
NEW YORK — In the often transitory world of theatre, stars try to make dressing rooms feel like home.

Yul Brynner had his room decorated in shades of brown when he starred years ago in *The King And I*. For her more recent run in *Death And The Maiden*, Glenn Close installed a couch with floral prints, and enjoyed serving tea.

But home is a more serious affair for Vanessa Redgrave, who for the past few months has starred off-Broadway in the acclaimed production of *Vita And Virginia*.

You will find no renovations in this long, narrow dressing room at Manhattan's Union Square Theatre. The walls and counter tops are a shiny, anonymous white. Instead of sofas, there are metal chairs. Instead of freshly brewed tea, there's take-out cappuccino in a paper cup.

While the actress has set up an array of family pictures and letters of support, her touch is most visible here in the books that fill a narrow white shelf above her mirror: Chekhov and Virginia Woolf, Shakespeare and Ariel Dorfman, a volume of writings by Karl Marx.

Interviewing Redgrave requires more work than interviews with other performers: Brush up on the classics and economic theory. Read Stanislavsky's *An Actor Prepares* and anything you can find on the war in Bosnia.

"You see all the interconnections between the fields of culture, education, social conditions and political conditions," Redgrave said as she thumbed through a notebook of

materials about a benefit she was helping to organize for the children of Sarajevo.

On a chilly winter's afternoon, the 58-year-old Redgrave is dressed in black pants and a black, chenille sweater-blouse. She is tall and slender, swaying gracefully as she stands and waits to be photographed and easily fitting into a small chair as she begins talking.

With showtime still hours away, the actress wears no makeup. Her ruddy skin is marked by wrinkles and tiny red veins. Her voice is deep and dramatic, resonant of both the stage and nicotine. Her eyes are a bright, youthful blue, although, at times, they seem more focused on what she says than on the reporter to whom she's speaking.

The great mystery about Redgrave today is where she will go with a question. A discussion about personal regrets reminds her of the 1938 Munich pact with the Nazis. The subject of marital problems with her first husband, the late director Tony Richardson, is resolved with an explanation of method acting.

"It gives you an understanding of building and creating," said Redgrave, whose marriage to Richardson collapsed in the mid-1960s after his affair with actress Jeanne Moreau.

For years, Redgrave requires more work than interviews with other performers: Brush up on the classics and economic theory. Read Stanislavsky's *An Actor Prepares* and anything you can find on the war in Bosnia.

"It's quite natural to be infatuated if you admire someone's work. ... Any man who didn't love Jeanne Moreau would have to be blind and deaf. How could one think, 'my husband mustn't.' It would be ridiculous. I, of the same feminine gender, have the same admiration and awe



Vanessa Redgrave

the life around me, political, personal, natural, or theatrical... (has) been doubly increased since becoming more aware and involved with the present political situation," she observed in a letter to her father in the early '60s.

The daring of Redgrave's politics matches that of her work on the stage and screen. Her causes have included striking miners in Britain, the Cuban Revolution, Palestinian statehood. Some never have forgiven her for her reference to "Zionist hoodlums" in her acceptance speech when she won an Academy Award for *Julia*.

"I wouldn't have been thinking about hoodlums in any case, which was the Jewish Defence League, if they hadn't been offering money for people to kill me, if there hadn't been sharpshooters around trying to stop such a thing from happening," said Redgrave, who won the Oscar in 1978.

"But if you look at the words I actually said, you can see I made a pledge. I pledged I would follow the example of Jews ('to fight against anti-Semitism and fascism'), both in my work and in politics.

"If you take what I have done, it adds up to what I have said I would try to do," she said. "Maybe it's not enough, maybe it's very small, but it does add up. I do believe if you make a pledge you must stay with that pledge to the end of your life."

## China film duo Zhang Yimou, Gong Li split

By Andrew Browne

SHANGHAI — The glamour couple of the Chinese film world — director Zhang Yimou and the actress Gong Li — have split up, ending a collaboration that produced a string of award-winning movies, including *Raise The Red Lantern* and *Red Sorghum*, news reports said.

Zhang and Gong were lovers, famous in China as much for their off-screen romance as for their controversial pictures that swept film prizes in the West.

Now Gong, the nearest thing China has to a Hollywood superstar, is romantically linked with the China-based manager of a foreign company and has walked out on Zhang, the *Wen Hui* newspaper said, without giving names.

"The love affair between China's cinematic golden couple is over," the *Wen Hui* reported.

"Yes, we've split up," Zhang was quoted as saying in an interview with the *Xinmin Evening News*. "I respect her choice. From the bottom of my heart I hope she has a happy life and success in her work."

Neither Zhang nor Gong were available for comment.

The rift came to a head during the making of Zhang's latest film, set in Shanghai in the roaring 1930s, starring Gong in the role of a gangster's girl struggling through life as a nightclub jazz singer, the *Wen Hui* daily said.

Gong was often late on set, took days off and lacked conviction, it reported.

Based on interviews with Zhang and members of his inner circle, the

newspapers suggested the Shanghai film, now almost completed, would be his last with Gong.

That would be a major loss for the movie industry both in China and overseas, where Zhang and Gong are among only a handful of recognized Chinese movie celebrities. Their latest collaboration, *To Live*, garnered yet more prizes for the couple at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

The glamorous Gong often played tragic women in Zhang's movies, capturing the director's bittersweet feelings towards China — the emotion that energizes his best work. She had the star-quality that guaranteed his movies commercial success.

Now both their futures appear uncertain.

Zhang's career is already threatened: Communist authorities have banned him from working with overseas film companies and accepting foreign financing. That was his punishment for showing *To Live* at Cannes without clearance from Chinese

censors. Although Gong is now working on a movie with another of China's celebrated "fifth generation" of film directors, Chen Kaige, many Chinese have speculated that without Zhang her talents will wither.

"She's not a hard-working sort, but she is quite instinctual, and often picks things up just like that," Zhang told the *Wen Hui* daily. "If she's prepared to work hard... she will be able to produce good work."

In a recent interview with Reuters in Shanghai, Zhang hinted at the break-up. "It can't go on forever," he said of his eight-year working relationship with Gong.

He talked of personal unhappiness, complaining he was lonely and his life had become dull. He said he was planning to build a house in Beijing where he and members of his crew could live and work together.

Zhang and Gong have rarely been out of the Chinese newspaper gossip columns since the brilliant



Gong Li (centre) plays the lead in Zhang Yimou's Chinese epic, *To Live*

## Researchers near genetic tests for leukemia, breast and kidney cancer

By Paul Recer  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Researchers probing the genetic mutations that make some people more susceptible than others to cancer have isolated specific gene flaws for leukemia and for breast and kidney cancer.

Studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* report scientists have moved closer to being able to identify at a very early age patients with specific inherited genes that might lead to cancer.

The discoveries could lead to laboratory blood tests that would enable patients to be counseled

on their cancer liability and help clinicians make decisions about early treatment or about procedures that could prevent the disease, experts said at a news conference.

**Among findings:** Researchers at nine centers who are studying the DNA of the gene *BRCA1*, which increases susceptibility to breast and ovarian cancer, have found 57 mutations related to the disease.

Mark H. Skolnick of the University of Utah School of Medicine said that the *BRCA1* gene may have as many as 200 mutations that lead to the cancers.

"The gene is very large, and these mutations are spread across the whole

gene," he said. "There is no clustering."

Of the 57 mutations, Dr. Skolnick said only three seem to be common.

The mutations were found in about 7 per cent of 1,086 breast and ovarian cancer patients tested at U.S. and British laboratories.

Dr. Skolnick said that once all mutations have been identified, perhaps in two years, researchers will determine which of these genetic flaws can lead to cancer and which are neutral.

Then, he said, researchers will be able to develop tests that identify patients with a high risk of breast or ovarian cancer.

Dr. Skolnick said the test would be useful only for those women who have close relatives — mothers or sisters — identified as having a *BRCA1* mutation. Women who have such relatives but who do not inherit the *BRCA1* mutation would have a breast or ovarian cancer risk no greater than the general population, he said.

Researchers studying the *ALL1* gene, linked to development of certain kinds of leukemia, have found an unusual fusion of identical parts of the gene in some patients.

Dr. Steven A. Schichman of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia said that in some adult patients with acute leuke-

mia, researchers found that regions of the gene actually were duplicated, an abnormality he called "self-fusion."

Just how this happens or how it causes leukemia is unknown, but the researcher said the defect is present in patients with a particularly poor prognosis and high risks of relapse.

The fused defect occurs at some point in development of the bone marrow cell and causes it to grow without normal controls, he said.

By finding the defect, Schichman said, researchers now may be able to develop a test to identify patients bearing the genetic flaw, which could help to guide treatment.

Researchers at the National Cancer Institute have identified a gene that may lead to early diagnosis and treatment of an often-lethal form of kidney cancer.

He said the *VHL* gene mutation was found in 85 of 114 families where kidney cancer was an inherited disorder.

It's hoped, he said, that a test can be developed to identify patients with *VHL* and, thus, lead to early diagnosis of kidney cancer.

## Acne can be treated

By Dr. Qassem Rushaidat

Acne or pimples is a skin problem that is not restricted to teenagers, since 95 per cent of adults do also some form of acne, at one time or the other in their lives.

Acne may range in severity from simple black or whiteheads, to the distressing cysts or scars.

The basic questions relevant to acne are: What is acne? When to treat it? And how to treat it?

Acne is a disease of the sebaceous glands. The glands secrete a fatty material and open directly in the hair follicles through a small pore. When the pores are clogged by debris and secretions, sometimes under hormonal changes, the bacterial population inside the glands increases, working on the fatty material there and breaking it into irritant substances that initiate an inflammatory reaction.

The early stage of blockage is what is known as blackhead (because of its contents of melanin, the substance responsible for tanning of the skin. They are not dirt), or whiteheads which are the time bombs of acne, as they are responsible for the changes to pimples and other inflammatory stages of acne.

When to treat acne? One simple answer, which also applies for any other disease, is "the sooner the better." Any delay in treatment, or long waiting to "outgrow" the disease, is meaningless, and may end with skin and psychological scars.

There are certain facts about acne that everyone should know:

Acne is not a disease of dirtiness; chocolates do not cause acne;

Squeezing and popping of pimples, evacuates small amount of the comedones contents to the outside, while most of the contents are evacuated inside;

Whiteheads and not blackheads are the main problem in development of acne;

Acne can still affect people in their thirties or forties;

Acne may get worst one week before menstruation, and during mental stress.

So what can one do to treat acne?

Wash your face at least twice a day to reduce the fatty material that may block the pores. Do not overwash.

Use oil-free cosmetics if needed.

Do not squeeze pimples.

Use soaps with sulphur or benzoyl peroxide. If dryness of skin occurs, reduce frequency of washing with soaps, use oil-free moisturizers.

Normally treat acne in three stages:

Stage one: Treatment with peeling agents such as salicylic acid, sulphur, benzoyl peroxide, vitamin A. Acid reduces chances of having full blown pimples and its complications.

Stage Two: In this stage pimples predominate, and treatment concentrates on reducing inflammatory changes, by using topical and/or oral antibiotics. In severe cases a Vitamin A derivative is given orally under strict supervision of a dermatologist.

Stage Three: involves treatment of all complications of acne as scars, pigmentations etc. Chemical peeling (using alpha hydroxy acids), dermabrasion (shaving upper layers of skin by metallic brush), injection of collagen in skin (to elevate depressed scars), and injection of cortisone inside the skin (to reduce elevated scars).

The end result of treatment depends largely, on positive cooperation of the dermatologist and the patient to achieve the best cosmetic clearance of acne.

The writer is an Amman-based "consultant" dermatologist who contributed the above article to the Weekender.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NAME GAME  
By Joel Davajan

**ACROSS**

- 1. Rover
- 6. One sign of disease
- 10. God's place
- 12. Sels. cords form
- 15. Wilfers — PA
- 21. Musical term
- 22. Red do it —
- 23. "Ain't I a —?"
- 25. Letter's tag?
- 27. Change in a way
- 29. "I'm not a mother"
- 31. Duke
- 32. 1000
- 33. London gallery
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- 35. Use a scrub
- 36. Rubdown
- 37. Up and down
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## 'I should be so lucky..'

Can you really bring good fortune your way by positive thinking? Emma Cook reports.

**IN THE** introduction to *The Education of a Poker Player*, Al Alvarez explains: "To bet on horses, dogs, or raindrops sliding down the windowpane is, at best, a romantic weakness. You have to believe in your luck, in your special relationship with fate, in the possibility that you are somehow chosen and blessed."

Can you really influence your fate by believing strongly enough in your good fortune? Jean, 52, believes so. "I've always been a lucky person," she says confidently. "I feel special, as if someone up there favours me." In January

she won £300 on the National Lottery. Three weeks ago she had a full house at her bingo club and walked out with £450. Last Wednesday she came away with another £200.

Jean believes she can control her luck: She always sits in the same place and keeps an old penny in her pocket to rub over the cards before the game begins. "When I changed seats after my first win, I lost. I went back to my old position and won again, so I'm not taking any more chances."

It would be easy to dismiss Jean's run of wins as coincidence. But there is

growing scientific support for her notion that feeling lucky may contribute to her gambling success. Richard Wiseman, senior lecturer in psychology at Hertfordshire University, has just embarked on a two-year research programme examining people's beliefs about luck, how it affects their life and whether it is possible to create one's own.

Camelot, the consortium running the National Lottery, is taking a keen interest. Having put a brave public face on the fact that millions more people than expected have been winning small amounts on the lottery, it has begun to look closely at how often the average punter might feel lucky and whether that has any bearing on the number of times he or she picks winning numbers.

Dr. Wiseman and his team are interviewing volunteers and asking them questions such as: Do they see themselves as born lucky, do they believe their luck changes from day to day, and is it a skill they can control? These views will be combined with experimental tests based entirely on chance — a

computerised coin-flipping exercise and a guessing game based on choosing which of four possible pictures is in an envelope — to see if there is a significant link between thought and action.

Already some patterns are beginning to emerge. Dr. Wiseman believes there is a link between supposed luck and one's general outlook on life. People who tend to be outgoing and extrovert are, he says, more able to create "lucky" opportunities for themselves. Conversely, those who believe they attract misfortune tend to have a less sunny outlook.

Depending on the outcome of the research, the team may be able to point to certain kinds of behaviour that characterise a "lucky person." This may mean, ultimately, a set of rules to enable even the unluckiest punters to manipulate fate favourably.

"One of the end points of the project is to develop a set of lifestyle changes," he says. "We might be able to say 'Try looking at the world this way' or pinpoint certain things to do." In the ornate surround-

ings of Tooting's Gala bingo hall in South London, I decide to test if it is possible to attract good luck by feeling lucky. I cannot remember winning anything in my life: during a one-off visit to a point-to-point meeting the horse I bet on broke its leg and had to be shot two yards from the finishing line.

The National Lottery has been similarly disastrous. Since its launch last November, I have filled in one ticket every week and have yet to achieve more than two correct numbers. The Hertfordshire psychology team might say my negative outlook is clouding any chance of success.

Surely that is something I can change. It's Wednesday evening at the Gala and the place is packed out, mostly with women — who constitute 80 per cent of Britain's bingo-going population — all eager to win the new national jackpot of £27,000. Taking a leaf out of Jean's book, I trust to superstition. Wearing a pair of favourite old earrings (the nearest I've got to a mascot), I sit down on the ninth (my supposed lucky num-

ber) row from the back. My neighbour, deep in concentration, looks up triumphantly. She is one number short of a full house.

I smile positively at her and try to exude optimism. Someone in the audience yells "full house" and we start on the next sheet. She looks disappointed. "You've either got it or you haven't," she says. "I've never been lucky." Five rows down, bingo player Marcia feels very differently. She clasps a small gold heart in one hand while she crosses off the numbers. In 16 months she has won more than £2,000 — with the help of her charm, she claims "I'd never come here without it."

An hour later I have managed to achieve two complete rows but the full house eludes me. Rather than fall into doomed, self-fulfilling-disaster mode, I decide to test my luck one more time on the lottery. The next morning I approach my newsagent to buy a ticket, smiling, cheerful and wearing my earnings.

Rationally, I feel these precautions will have no effect on my chances what-

ever. They don't. None of my numbers comes up. Perhaps I wasn't believing hard enough.

Susan Blackmore, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of West England, Bristol, says it would not have made the blindest bit of difference. "Most of the time we don't win anything. So when we do it's tempting to attribute it to our own actions: Carrying lucky mascots, crossing fingers, walking around ladders etc." But although this makes us feel more powerful, there is no proof of any it works. "It's what we call the illusion of control."

She explains that our response to luck and superstition is based very much on where we perceive our "focus of control" to be. There are two types of personalities: "internals" believe that what they do from within themselves is effective, whereas "externals" think that everything outside is responsible.

Perhaps it's enough to believe sincerely I will win next Saturday's lottery.

As Alvarez writes: "Against all the evidence, you have to be an optimist." It seems there are the ones who have all the luck. Or at least they think they do, which is half the battle.

## Srour defends House record

(Continued from page 1)

the speech given by the IAF member and the limited debate on it in the House.

So did the conflict between the IAF and the interior minister, Salameh Hammoud, over an incident where IAF deputies were prevented from visiting the Swaqa prison and the threat by the Minister of Supply Adel Oudah to sue Deputy Fawaz Al Zu'bi (Ramtha) required a great amount of behind the scene work, says Mr. Srour.

The incident between Mr. Qudah and Mr. Zu'bi ended with the minister apologising to the lawnmower. That was a precedent, says Mr. Srour.

After numerous meetings with the IAF, other lawmakers and the government, the conflict over Swaqa ended with the formation of a committee which issued a statement asserting the right of lawmakers to visit the prison, where some Islamists convicted of subversion were being held.

In both cases, the House protected its role but people knew little of the tremendous effort that went into doing that, says Mr. Srour.

As speaker of the House, he says, "my role is to protect the House" and apply the regulations in a way that would guarantee each deputy's right to express his/her views on all issues.

But the House speaker also has to prevent any member from insulting their colleagues or slandering them. In that regard, the controversy over the way the House dealt with Deputy Toujan Faisal is a case in point.

Many lawmakers have protested against the way in which Ms. Faisal addressed the House. Others demanded action against the deputy, who antagonised most of her colleagues.

## France says 5 Americans spied

(Continued from page 1)

ing that several Americans, including diplomats, had been asked to leave because of "activities incompatible with their status in France's — diplomatic jargon for espionage.

The ministries said the request had been made confidentially and was not meant to be made public.

The French government stresses that this matter should not put into question the solid and longstanding friendship between France and the United States," the statement said.

French officials, requesting anonymity, said France stopped short of ordering the five expelled and had asked the United States to withdraw

party discipline.

Therefore, he says, deputies exercise their rights to address issues raised as most of them have different opinions on them. But the speaker notes that there was clear response in the session to requests for shorter speeches and that fewer deputies spoke this time.

While admitting that the session did not produce enough in terms of legislation, Mr. Srour justifies that by pointing to the "many important and crucial issues with which the House has had to deal during the session."

Speaking with the same calmness that characterises his style of chairing the House meetings, Mr. Srour points out that among the major issues with which the House dealt was the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, the vote of confidence in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the debate over the 1995 budget law.

All these issues took up most of the House's time, says Mr. Srour. But they helped manifest the maturity of the House and the democratic way in which deputies addressed these issues, controversial and sensitive as they were.

In the case of the peace treaty, Mr. Srour notes the "extremely strong" feelings that both its opponents and proponents had. But the House's debate was a measure of the "high feeling of responsibility and respect for democracy that deputies have."

Asked to comment on accusations that much of the House's time is wasted on rhetoric and long speeches, Mr. Srour asserts that it is the right of deputies to speak on all issues raised on the floor.

But the speaker notes that though most deputies are members of parliamentary groups, these blocs are not political parties which follow strict guidelines and have to protect."

with the French government."

Le Monde quoted an internal DST report as saying that the five Americans concentrated their "clandestine research" on economic and commercial activities, particularly the audiovisual and telecommunications sectors.

France and the United States have accused each other in the past of conducting industrial espionage.

In the late 1980s, U.S. intelligence agencies accused French agents of spying on American banks and computer firms, searching U.S. businessmen's garbage and hotel rooms, and recruiting Air France employees to provide information about Americans.

Le Monde cited three separate incidents in which the five Americans allegedly sought to pay off informants — including ranking French civil servants — in exchange for information about France's position in world trade talks and on the state-run France Telecom's structure.

The paper said Mrs. Harrison was twice summoned on the issue — once, on Jan. 26, to inform her of the French findings and again, on Feb. 10, because Mr. Pasqua felt the Americans were dragging their feet in moving the five Americans out of France.

By Sergei Shargorodsky

The Associated Press

**MUSLIUMOVO, RUSSIA** — The shallow creek runs beneath an abandoned mill. Cows wander knee-deep in the water. In the summer, it is where the village's children swim.

This pastoral scene is deceptive, however. The Techa River is radioactive and has been for almost half a century.

The nearby Mayak Nuclear Complex, also known as Chelyabinsk-65, began dumping raw nuclear waste into the Ural Mountains river in 1949, when it built the Soviet Union's first reactor to produce plutonium for atomic bombs.

By the mid-1950s, radiation affected 124,000 people living along the Techa, which flows through a pretty forest and lake region.

About 20 villages around Muslimovo, with their 8,000 to 9,000 residents, were evacuated because radiation levels were considered too dangerous.

Muslimovo was not, even though radiation in the village often exceeded that recorded at the evacu-

ated sites. Many villagers suspect they were left behind as human guinea pigs.

"For 40 years, they've been checking how a living being can survive in a radiation zone," said Valentina Kaidanayeva, a teacher.

"A lot of professors studying us must be dead by now, but we are still alive," she told a visiting group of foreign scientists, politicians and reporters this fall.

Officials are at a loss to explain why Muslimovo, 1,500 kilometres east of Moscow, was not relocated. A senior scientist said he saw the evacuation order with his own eyes.

"I don't think it was done on purpose, but probably because the village was too big and too expensive to evacuate," said Mira Kosenko, an expert on radiation medicine from Chelyabinsk, the regional capital.

Whatever the case, thousands of people remained in Muslimovo, using the river water for their households and letting cattle graze in contaminated fields, unaware of the poison creeping into their bones.

The former Soviet Union zealously guarded its nuclear secrets, and public health hardly mattered. So the villagers were not told anything about Strontium-90 and Cesium-137. Instead, they were told to keep out of the river because it was dirty.

The mostly Bashkir-Tatar people of Muslimovo did not listen. For them, the Techa was a source of life. If they fell sick, medical personnel were under orders to keep silent about radiation, Ms. Kosenko said.

The revelation came in 1989, when the Russian government first mentioned Mayak's legacy of nuclear accidents and radioactive pollution. Detailed reports later brought more knowledge and more despair.

The village's people learned that the level of radiation accumulated in their bodies greatly exceeded permissible amounts, that scientists had found traces of even deadlier plutonium in the area, and that the river was so contaminated its soil could be classified as solid nuclear waste.

Doctors began to speak

of the region's problems with immune deficiencies, bone pains, blood disorders, chronic radiation sickness and cancers. Infant mortality is said to be high. But scientific studies of the village are only just starting, so there are no reliable figures on health problems.

While radiation is clearly a danger, some physicians are cautious about attributing its effects. They say the heavily industrialised Chelyabinsk region also has health problems from radiation.

"As people learn more about the health effects, they begin to insist on leaving this place. They're very much concerned," said Gennady Gabirov, the head of the district administration in nearby Kusnash.

Plans to resettle the 4,378 people in Muslimovo and the adjacent train stop found no government approval. However, the government did start to pump money into the areas affected by the Soviet nuclear programme and in 1993 adopted a special rehabilitation plan for disaster zones.

Given Russia's economic woes, the programme began to collapse almost as soon as it was introduced.

The finance ministry slashed planned spending. In 1993, the region got about 32 per cent of the money allocated and even less in 1994, said Vladimir Panteleyev, who oversees the distribution of funds in the area.

In Muslimovo, construction was halted on dozens of housing projects that could allow evacuation of the most dangerous homes close to the river. Government compensation to some radiation victims has not been paid for months.

"The people live very poorly. They don't have any good food to improve their health, just enough to survive," said Ms. Kaidanayeva, a mother of three.

Ms. Kaidanayeva now teaches her pupils about radiation.

"While the state is thinking about resettling us, we must educate our children so they decide to leave this place. But I'm afraid some of us will perish before we achieve this goal," she said.

## U.S. may lose influence at U.N. to EU

By Evelyn Leopold

Reuter

**UNITED NATIONS** — With the U.S. Congress threatening to cut off funds for United Nations peacekeeping, Washington's influence in the world body could be reduced substantially in favour of the Europeans.

The negative reaction to the United Nations by a Republican Congress coincides with an enlarged 15-member European Union (EU).

U.S. firms earn nearly half a billion dollars annually out of a total of \$3.6 billion spent. Or for every dollar Washington contributes to the United Nations, about 28 cents is returned to the U.S. economy, according to the U.N. Association of the United States.

For example, all nations with high contributions want a more equitable assessment of U.N. dues, which would lower U.S. peacekeeping payments but

not as much as Washington wants.

Apprehensive, however, that the United States and other nations might renege or be in continual arrears regardless of the level of assessment, Western European are contemplating penalties in exchange for revising dues.

These include a ban on lucrative peacekeeping contracts or ineligibility for senior U.N. staff posts, diplomatic

and economic

losses.

The House voted last week to deduct from Washington's \$1.3 billion peacekeeping assessment the costs the Defense Department incurs in U.S.-run military bases around the U.S.

One reason, say diplomats, is that any angry comments would aggravate Congress further.

Another is that the measure, still to go before the Senate, was not passed in

contribution.

Among the activities which might be charged back to the U.N. could be patrolling an allied-no-fly zone over Iraq, never formally approved by the United Nations, or the U.S. intervention in Haiti, approved by the Security Council after months of lobbying by Washington.

The United Nations has 17 peacekeeping missions with nearly 70,000 troops, close to 40,000 of them in Bosnia alone at an annual cost of more than \$3 billion. The United States fields about 1,000 troops, almost all of them in Macedonia.

Nevertheless, U.N. reaction has been subdued, with public battles left to U.S. ambassador, Madeleine Albright.

One reason, say diplomats, is that any angry comments would aggravate Congress further.

Another is that the measure, still to go before the Senate, was not passed in

the House by the two-thirds vote necessary to override a threatened veto by President Bill Clinton.

Asked, however, if the Europeans and Japan would or could rescue U.N. peacekeeping if the congressional bill became law, the reply from diplomats was a resounding "no."

Said Kofi Annan, the U.N. undersecretary general in charge of peacekeeping, "We are doing too much with too little. If the resources are to be cut further, our efforts will be severely hampered."

Dr. Ghali, however, was more philosophical, saying that the U.N. would have to accept any scaling back during this 50th anniversary year. "That's all."

## Policy change needed

# ILO says world employment prospects gloomy

GENEVA (Agencies) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Wednesday that the chances of reducing record levels of global unemployment are remote in the next few years, and it urged a policy overhaul.

Contradicting Western trends and advice from other international bodies, the U.N. agency said abolition of minimum wages and other measures to cut labour costs are not the solution in industrialised nations.

In its "World Employment" report, the ILO said the main hope for rich and poor countries alike lies in boosting prosperity through free trade and export-led growth. It brushed aside fears about manufacturing jobs moving from the United States and Europe to cheap labour countries, saying these would be more than offset by gains in high-tech and service industries.

"In 1994, 30 per cent of the global labour force — about 820 million people — were unemployed or underemployed in what has become the worst crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s," the ILO said. In industrialised countries, 35 million workers were without a job.

"Under current scenarios, growth will not be sufficient

to cure Europe's endemic employment ills, reverse the decline in real U.S. incomes, halt the spread of poverty and underemployment in developing countries or prevent the marginalisation of an entire continent — Africa," the report said.

Unemployment in Spain is expected to rise to 24 per cent, in Finland 17 per cent and Ireland 15 per cent this year, the ILO said. Chronic underemployment will continue in parts of Latin America and most of Africa.

The jobless rate in the United States is forecast at slightly below six per cent this year. Japan is expected to be the lowest with 2.8 per cent, followed by Switzerland with 3.8 per cent, it said.

"The present employment situation is both morally unacceptable and economically irrational," said ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne.

The ILO criticised government policy for putting too much emphasis on fighting inflation and being "defeatist" about achieving full employment.

With a proper combination of economic policies nationally and internationally, the jobless rate could be halved over the next decade, it said.

The ILO urged more inter-

national cooperation to stabilise financial markets, reduce balance of payments problems and long-term interest rates; more emphasis on export-led industrial development and above all implementation of an international trade liberalisation accord that come into effect at the start of this year.

Reversing a long-held position about protection for workers in vulnerable industries, the ILO said a trade-free-for-all would benefit developing countries because of the long-term wealth and job-creation effects of freer trade despite initial costs.

Countries like France, Germany and New Zealand, are currently trying to introduce more competition on the labour market — a policy recommended by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and other bodies like the World Bank.

But the ILO dismissed as a myth suggestions that strict employment protection, strong unions and generous welfare systems were to blame for Europe's unemployment woes.

The relatively low level of unemployment in the United States was achieved at the cost of lower productivity, lower wages and more poverty among the working

population, it said. The abolition of the minimum wage — a key social measure — has no impact on demand for labour, it added.

In Britain, despite a huge decline in union membership in the 1980s and 1990s, real wages increased on export-led industrial development and above all implementation of an international trade liberalisation accord that come into effect at the start of this year.

By contrast, productivity remained high in countries like Switzerland, which enjoyed high wages and a strong degree of regulation, it said.

The ILO said the shift to a market economy in formerly communist countries in eastern and central Europe is turning out to be much tougher than had been expected.

The agency said that "the transition of East and Central Europe to the market economy is proving far more difficult than foreseen, and the social costs — including widespread poverty and mass unemployment — much higher than anticipated. Parts of the region risk a 'social explosion'."

The report said that "an equilibrium must be found between social sustainability and an adequate level of economic restructuring" in eastern and central Europe. So-

cial and labour market conditions continue to deteriorate in the region.

The document said that the problems encountered may force adoption of a more gradual approach to change and a halt to the "continuous decline in investment, living standards, employment and social protection."

It noted that it is vital for social costs to be kept within tolerable limits to avoid political upheaval that could threaten the whole process of shifting to a market-based economy.

Total inflow since 1990 has been less than \$10 billion for the nine countries, with 80 per cent of it going to Hungary and the Czech Republic. Only negligible amounts have gone to transition economies in the former Soviet Union.

"It is imperative to improve on these investment trends if the problem of mass unemployment is to be overcome," the ILO says — and achieving this will require completion of reforms to create a reliable system of property rights and well-functioning capital markets, among other things.

"A central policy issue with direct implications for the employment situation is the pace at which trade liberalisation, privatisation and enterprise restructuring should proceed."

ing is taking place and the real level of unemployment could soon skyrocket.

This stark prospect angers poorly both for living standards and for the productivity increases necessary for improved export performance and economic recovery.

The report said that the unemployment problem in the region can ultimately be solved only by expansion of output, but "initial optimism about the inflow of foreign direct investment has turned out to have been misplaced."

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## Algeria sets up privatisation control body

TUNIS (R) — Algeria has set up an official body to control partial privatisation operations, the Algerian news agency APS reported. It said Industry Restructuring and Participation Minister Mourad Bentachentouh named a "privatisation committee" charged with overseeing the implementation of rules and regulations during the selling of shares or stocks in partial privatisation operations. The committee is presided over by a magistrate and includes representatives of the accounting court, finance ministry, treasury and main labour unions, the agency added. On Sunday, Algerian state radio said that a ministry of privatisation was to be set up next March to oversee the transfer of state-owned companies to the private sector. It said that the government has drawn up a list of companies involved and a timetable, and is discussing with unions a draft law on a larger privatisation programme. The Algerian government, after over three decades of state control, is preparing to shift its mismanaged and mostly-broke public companies under free-market rules.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Go to the right sources for the data you need. Don't get advice from those who are not cognoscentes of all the facts or you will get wrong ideas.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) Obtain important information about a project you are interested in this morning before you go ahead with definite plans. Use your wisdom and ingenuity.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) If you handle routine duties in a more up to date today, you will get more benefits. Study a new plan before making any changes.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Don't neglect important tasks early in the day. Try to cooperate with fellow associates. Strive for more harmony and peace.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Take care you don't take on any heavy expenditures to money in the evening. Allow time to engage in creative activity so that you can have more happiness.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Postpone going ahead with a new interest you have in mind and wait for a better time. Evening is fine for recreation and having fun.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Improve the foundation of your life so that you can have added abundance in the days ahead. Get rid of annoying conditions at home this evening so that you can have peace of mind.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Iron out any problems with others in a quiet and tactful manner this morning. Seek the company of congenial people in the evening and have pleasant times.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) This morning you have to use care and thought in handling monetary problems. Use your intuitive faculties for best results.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Use a different attitude in handling a puzzling situation and you get better results. Relax in the company of good friends this evening.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have hidden desires that need more studies before you pursue them. Strive for increased happiness with the one person you are fond of.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Some of your friends may have problems today, so be sure to give a helping hand. Show others you have practical wisdom in any situation that comes up.

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1995

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Try to gain your aims by using more modern methods and get better results. A direct course is the best course to follow now. Relax in the evening.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) Private endeavours are fine to follow today, but be sure to carry through with what associates expect of you without deviating from the original plan.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have excellent plans for getting ahead today, but don't be too hasty in putting them in operation. Make good arrangements first and then all will go smoothly.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to be more successful in business dealings today and how to be more productive. Be more reassuring to mate and he or she will appreciate you more.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Listening with interest to what allies have to say today helps them to cooperate with you more and you with them. Be wise so that everything is successful.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Making needed changes where you will bring worthwhile results today. The evening can be a most happy one with the one you adore.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You are going to take a closer look at the new interest you have had in mind. Dive into it now and get excellent results. Take no risk in motion or problems could develop.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) There are conditions at home that'll want to clear up today, but you could lose out on important business matters, so postpone for now and take the action which seems most logical.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Attain important data you need from the right sources, then go ahead with the plans you've made for today. Smile and be happy to those you encounter even though your heart may not be in it.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Assets from different sources could come your way at this time. The daytime may be taxing but the evening can be delightful for you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Don't permit anyone to force you into some situation where you know it is not right for you. Be poised at all times today and show confidence.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Express your fine ability when called upon to do so today and please higher-ups. Come to a fine understanding with associates and go out and enjoy the evening.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx.

## Clinton appoints new economic strategist

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton appointed Tuesday a trade policy expert to be the nation's chief economic strategist as the head of the National Economic Council.

Laura D'Andrea Tyson, 47, replaced Robert Rubin who left the council in January to become treasury secretary.

Mr. Clinton, speaking at the White House, praised Ms. Tyson as a "credible voice" for the administration on the economy and said she had provided "unfailingly frank, direct and principled advice."

Ms. Tyson was an economics professor at the University of California at Berkeley before joining the administration as chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisors, a panel formed in 1994 by Congress to provide the president with input from economists.

The move underscored Mr. Clinton's efforts to boost the visibility of the National Economic Council, which he formed to coordinate economic policy among government agencies dealing with financial matters.

In accepting the appointment, Ms. Tyson defended the administration's record on the economy and said its approach to policymaking had been "coherent and consistent."

"As a result of the vision and the strategy, the nation is enjoying the most salutary combination of... low unemployment, low inflation, strong output growth, that it has enjoyed in a generation," Ms. Tyson said. "And that accomplishment is due to the vision and the principles of this president."

Mr. Clinton said his administration's economic policies had created six million new jobs in the United States, slashed the deficit and provided tax breaks to middle-income families.

"The results have clearly been felt," he said, adding that these achievements had been made despite gloom-and-doom predictions of an imminent recession and disasters.

Ms. Tyson, who will be the first woman to chair the National Economic Council, has emerged as one of the administration's most valued players and has often been called upon to defend Mr. Clinton's economic policies.

Despite solid professional credentials, many of Ms. Tyson's fellow economists have dismissed her as a lightweight with some critics charging that she is better at public relations than at public policy.



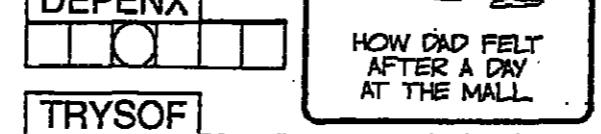
"Make sure my husband receives the exact same number of fries as I do... or things could get ugly!"



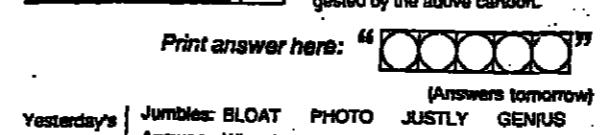
"YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!"



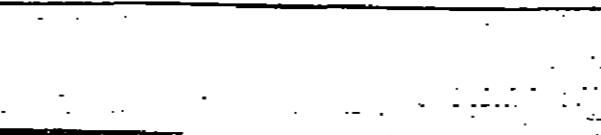
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"TRYSOF"



"HOW DAD FELT AFTER A DAY AT THE MALL"



"Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon."

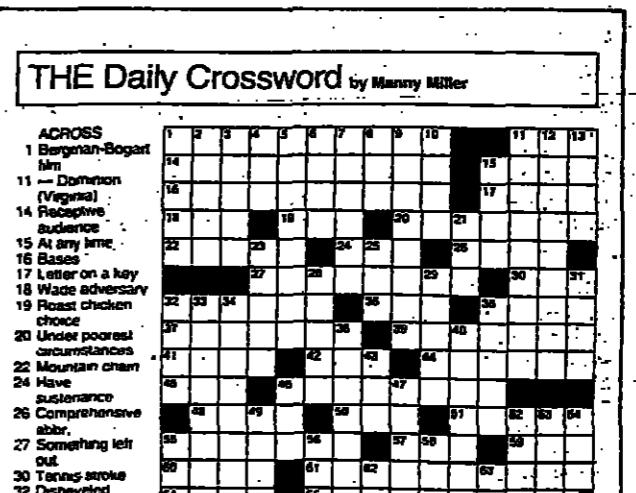
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BLOAT PHOTO JUSTLY GENUS

Answer: What the portrait photographer gave the family — HIS BEST SHOT

### THE Daily Crossword by Manny Miller



Puzzle solved:

1. Bergman-Bogart  
2. My  
3. Common  
4. Vignes  
5. Receptive  
6. At any time  
7. Bases  
8. Letter on a key  
9. Roast chicken  
10. Choice  
11. Poor  
12. Mountain  
13. Have  
14. Comprehensive  
15. Something left  
16. Tennis stroke  
17. Dressed  
18. Gabor  
19. Groom  
20. Like some  
21. Jackets  
22. Boarding  
23. Get a bead on  
24. Made a swap  
25. A new career  
26. Extras  
27. Helper abbr.  
28. Month  
29. Animal  
30. Princeton player  
31. Snore  
32. Honest  
33. Tell tale teller  
34. Game cameras  
35. Hounds' whips  
36. Not exclusive  
37. Landlord  
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DAY, FEBRUARY 23-24, 1995  
S up  
on control bod  
has set up an official body to oversee  
Restructuring and Privatization  
enrichment named a "committee" for  
overseeing the implementation of  
operations. The committee  
strategic and includes representatives  
the finance ministry, treasury  
agency added. On Saturday, the  
to the private sector. It had  
out a list of companies to be  
discussing with unions a strategic  
programme. The Algerian gove  
decades of state control, is pre  
and mostly broke public compa

## Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23-24, 1995 9

### Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Safeway prepares to become public shareholding company

★★ Jordan's Safeway is expected to float shares for public subscription towards the end of this year as it changes from private ownership to a public shareholding company. According to Azzam Al Masri, Safeway's general manager, the move aims at expanding the services and opening more branches in various parts of the Kingdom. Mr. Al Masri, noting that the expansion scheme could not be achieved without financial backing, revealed that the Safeway management is contacting some founders to prepare an in-depth, comprehensive study regarding the transfer to a public shareholding company and the financial requirements to realise this plan by the end of the year (Al Aswag).

★★ Wasef Azar, general manager of the Business Bank, sees the cancellation of the credit ceiling, fixed by the Central Bank, at 90 per cent of the total deposits, as a step that eases the competition among banks for deposits and stems the rise in interest rates. He explained that the drive for acquiring deposits over the past two months had negatively affected the activities of the banks in general and given large banks an edge over others as they were able to pay higher interest and dominate the market (Al Aswag).

★★ A Swiss company will set up a holding firm in Jordan to manage joint projects and will open a regional office in the area (Al Aswag).

★★ Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) has JD 190 million in investments at book value, but, at market value, the investments are worth JD 500 million. Sixty per cent of these investments, or JD 114 million at book value, are the corporation's portfolio at the Amman Financial Market. This portfolio, at market value, is estimated at JD 300 million. JIC Director-General Mohammad Al Batayneh said the corporation's plan was to sell part of its holdings to the private sector, such as the sale of 35 per cent of JIC ownership in Jordan International Hotel in which JIC had an 87 per cent stake. Mr. Batayneh said the corporation would also sell part of its holdings in JETT (Jordan Express Tourist Transport), Hammamat-Main (Jordan Tourism Spa Complex) and Philadelphia Hotel. JIC owns 12 per cent of JETT; it also has JD 95 million investments in three companies — potash, cement and phosphate — out of its AFM portfolio of JD 114 million (Al Aswag).

★★ Israel's ZIM shipping line has begun a regular call at Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba and will soon choose a Jordanian agent, shipping agents said Tuesday. The agents said ZIM Israel Navigation Co. Ltd. had chartered two vessels, Kenya Star and Durban Star, to serve Aqaba with one call every 20 days. Kenya Star unloaded 20 containers for Jordanian traders from South and East African ports and left Aqaba on Tuesday. The vessels will not carry an Israeli flag until a detailed accord is reached between Jordan and Israel in line with their peace treaty last October. Representatives of ZIM visited Jordan to see agents keen to represent them. A decision on an agent is expected in March, shipping agents said. Rami Qutub, managing-director of International Freight Services and Trading Company, told Reuters ZIM added Aqaba as a stop because Jordan's peace with Israel paved the way for normal commercial ties. (Reuters & Al Ra'a).

### Arab-American businessman caught in Gaza red tape

GAZA (R) — Yasser El Farra once owned a store called Import City on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. Now the Palestinian-American entrepreneur wants to bring some of the good life to impoverished Gaza City.

"It's been torture," he said.

Israeli border closures and burgeoning bureaucracy in Palestinian-ruled Gaza have frustrated Mr. Farra's efforts to import goods including food and appliances from Egypt since he returned to the strip in July after 21 years in California.

"This is what blows my mind out," he said in slightly accented American English at the Gaza branch of his Palestine International Trading Company (PITCO). "We have tried to bring the products since we started — nothing. I am paying salaries and rent, for nothing," he said.

Palestinian businessmen complain of difficulties dealing with a nascent administration that has yet to establish strong middle management and which refers many decisions to its head, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Farra, 40, one of six brothers who emigrated from Gaza to the United States, said he had grown used to the American way and wanted to give Gazans — economically dependent on Israel — a wider choice of products from the Arab World.

He returned to Gaza the same month as Chairman Arafat did, hoping to cash in on a peace dividend with Israel.

"I get depressed when someone tells me ... tomorrow. I don't know what word in my book. Here in Gaza, that's what happens. You get to a stage and they tell you: 'Come tomorrow,'" he said.

A graduate in computer studies from California State University at Northridge, Mr. Farra beamed as he recalled realising his American dream — real estate ventures and his store on Hollywood Boulevard.

His American wife and three teenage boys stayed in Pasadena while he tried to get down to business and he

will join the family in the U.S. in March, when he will decide on making a permanent move, while one of his brothers looks after his Gaza City interests.

Even in California his heart would always be in his homeland, listed on his business card as Palestine, where he estimates he could do annual trade of \$50 million. "You go wherever you go — you can be in heaven — and this country will still be your home," Mr. Farra said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Farra, whose double-breasted blazer and yellow turtleneck shirt add a splash of west coast colour to the drab and dusty surroundings, rails against paper-pushers stalling his consignments.

"They just don't know what they are doing," Mr. Farra said about officials in the self-rule authority.

"I have a lot of factories in

"Their answer: 'Go talk to Yasser Arafat.' So Yasser Arafat doesn't have nothing to do but to talk to me and to the next person and the next person."

"And it's just like he's going to run everything? he might as well run my life for me — tell me what I should eat what I shouldn't," Mr. Farra said, echoing complaints among some Palestinians that Mr. Arafat fails to delegate responsibility.

Mr. Farra does not mind his words about Israel either, saying border closures, such as that imposed after two Islamic suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis last month, were starving Palestinians of goods and wages.

"This border brings everything. You close it and you kill these people here," he said.

"I have a lot of factories in

the region that are willing to do business with us and I like to have the people here have the choice. Now ... the choice is all controlled by Israel. Am I going to be all my life run by an Israeli government?"

Mr. Farra says he could probably get through a lot of red tape if he took some short-cuts, but he prefers to "hit the belt" out of the bureaucrats.

"I have a guy ... that's all he does. He goes every day, nagging them ... but I don't want to give something under the table. Business shouldn't be done that way," he stressed.

"I found out from my banker ... that \$350 million in the last three months was gone from Gaza. So there were investors who came here with the money, with the notion to build and do some business."

### Lebanon overhauls banking, and finance laws

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon, which is seeking to win back its role as a regional banking centre and financial marketplace, has begun a sweeping revision of its banking and finance laws to bring them up to date with modern requirements.

Nassar Saidi, first vice-governor of the Bank of Lebanon, told Reuters in an interview a joint committee formed by the bank and the justice ministry is working on the task under his chairmanship.

"Our banking and finance laws need to be modernised. We also need a number of new laws," said Mr. Saidi, who expects the job to take at least a year.

"We are trying to give a legal and technical infrastructure for the operation of markets in Lebanon. We would like to have international norms, be up to date and to secure transparency for the markets," he said.

The committee, which began work about three months ago, wants to graft elements of U.S. and British finance and banking legislation onto Lebanon's existing French-originated laws.

"What we are trying to do is something unique or different, to be as much as possible a hybrid system, to benefit from Anglo-Saxon law and legal tradition and marry it with the French legislation which we have," Mr. Saidi said.

The financial markets in the United States and the United Kingdom expanded at a much more rapid pace and so did their legislation. We are trying to get the benefit of this," he added.

Updating the laws is part of the government's effort to regain the predominant position Beirut held as a banking centre and financial market.

place in the Middle East 20 years ago, before the 1975-90 civil war.

"The laws haven't been revised for decades," a member of the committee who asked not to be identified told Reuters. "It's a huge undertaking if you want to do it properly. It's tremendously important."

The committee includes some 22 Lebanese lawyers, legal experts, economists, bankers and financial market experts. It meets weekly and also calls on Lebanese expatriates working in legal and financial circles in New York, London and Paris when needed, Mr. Saidi said.

Its proposals will eventually require parliamentary approval to become law.

"We don't have a legal framework for modern financial instruments which evolved or were created over the last 20 years," Mr. Saidi said. "Broadly, we need new legislation for instruments which didn't exist in Lebanon before the war, things like mutual funds which are very important."

The committee will also seek to define financial intermediaries and their role, authorisation and licensing.

It will draft listing requirements for financial markets and will draft a capital markets law whose chief purpose, Mr. Saidi said, will be to separate the role of the regulatory authorities from market operations.

Lebanon's banking legislation also needs modernisation, Mr. Saidi said. In particular, the committee will define the functions and responsibilities of investment banks, which began emerging in Beirut for the first time last year, in relation to commercial banks and other financial institutions.

### Morocco earns \$567m from fish exports

RABAT (R) — Morocco's fish exports rose slightly to \$567 million last year even though volume dropped, official figures released on Tuesday showed.

"Morocco exported 183,600 tonnes of fish worth \$567 million last year compared with 197,200 tonnes in the previous year," the Office Des Changes said.

In 1993, fish export revenues were \$501 billion dirhams (\$563 million), it added. Morocco exports mainly to Europe and Japan.

Morocco has enormous sea wealth along its 3,500

kilometres Atlantic coastline.

Some 400 local fishing units operate in waters full of mackerel, sardines, anchovies, tuna, squid, shrimps and many other species.

ARMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN					
TELEPHONE: 650111 - 651111					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 22/2/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME					
NAME OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE PER SHARE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	PERCENT
ARAB BANK PLC	1170	185,500	185,750		
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	24523	4,500	4,500		
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	12824	4,300	4,300		
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	12725	4,200	4,200		
THE HOUSING BANK	12726	4,100	4,100		
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	12727	4,000	4,000		
JORDAN CITADEL BANK	12728	3,900	3,900		
BEIT ELMAK SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	12729	3,800	3,800		
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12730	3,700	3,700		
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	12731	3,600	3,600		
BANKS S SECTOR					
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE					
INSURANCE S SECTOR					
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER					
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	12732	3,500	3,500		
JORDAN HOTEL & TRAVEL	12733	3,400	3,400		
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	12734	3,300	3,300		
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	12735	3,200	3,200		
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	12736	3,100	3,100		
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	12737	3,000	3,000		
NATIONAL PORTOFICO SECURITIES	12738	2,900	2,900		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMORO HOTELS	12739	2,800	2,800		
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT EDUCATION	12740	2,700	2,700		
SERVICES S SECTOR					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES					
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	12741	2,600	2,600		
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	12742	2,500	2,500		
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	12743	2,400	2,400		
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	12744	2,300	2,300		
NATIONAL PORTOFICO SECURITIES	12745	2,200	2,200		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMORO HOTELS	12746	2,100	2,100		
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT EDUCATION	12747	2,000	2,000		
SERVICES T TOTAL					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES					
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	12748	2,000	2,000		
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	12749	1,900	1,900		
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	12750	1,800	1,800		
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	12751	1,700	1,700		
NATIONAL PORTOFICO SECURITIES	12752	1,600	1,600		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMORO HOTELS	12753	1,500	1,500		
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT EDUCATION	12754	1,400	1,400		
INDUSTRIAL S SECTOR					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO					

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

## No Sampras for U.S. against Italy

NEW YORK (Agencies) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras has told U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson that he will not play in the quarter-final tie against Italy next month.

"Pete didn't make himself available," Gullikson told Reuters in a telephone interview from his Florida home Monday.

"Obviously you hope for the best players and wish they all made themselves available. This is just something to deal with."

Gullikson said the timing of the March 31-April 2 match in Palermo, Sicily was bad for Sampras. "He just didn't want to stay in Europe for that long of a time," Gullikson said.

Sampras is scheduled to be in Europe from April 10 playing tournaments in preparation for the French Open starting May 29.

"In all fairness to Pete these are just flat out bad days," Gullikson said of the Davis Cup schedule.

Ironically, Gullikson said the health problems of his twin brother Tim, who coaches Sampras, might have contributed to a decision not to play.

"Pete has had a rough few months and is just starting to come to terms with Tim's situation," Gullikson, 43, said of his brother's recent diagnosis as having a brain tumour.

At last month's Australian Open, Sampras broke down and openly sobbed on court during his quarter-final win against Jim Courier after a fan had urged him to win it for his coach, who was flying home at the time after a seizure in Melbourne.

"Pete has had to do this in a very public way and he needs to take a deep breath and that might be one factor of not coming to the Davis Cup," Gullikson said.

Since the initial diagnosis last week, his brother has left the hospital and is back home in a Chicago suburb seeking other opinions before deciding on a course of treatment, Gullikson said.

"He looks good, he is in good spirits and you would never know he is sick. He's a competitor and he's ready to do whatever he's got to do to get healthy."

As a return to coaching for Tim, Gullikson said: "Tennis is a far, far distant priority (for him) right now."

Without Sampras to consider, the U.S. captain said he will look at six others for the two single spots starting with a talk with world number two Andre Agassi sometime this week.

"There might be hope for this one," Gullikson said of Agassi, who has not played Davis Cup since 1993.

Todd Martin and Courier, who played in the 4-1 opening round win over France earlier this month, along with Michael Chang, Aaron Krick-



Pete Sampras

stein and Malivai Washington are all being considered for singles in the outdoor tie on clay against Italy, according to Gullikson.

#### Agassi easily wins

IN PHILADELPHIA. Andre Agassi, the Australian and U.S. Open champion, made a strong entry in the \$714,250 U.S. Indoor on Tuesday by overpowering Jan Apell, a left-handed Swedish Davis Cup player, 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi, ranked second in the world, was all business in overpowering Apell, who entered the tournament as a qualifier. Agassi got to set point in the first set with a service ace and won it when Apell hit a backhand long.

Agassi finished it with ease in the second set, using his second service break to go up 5-2 and winning it in the next game with a passing shot down the line.

Apell had more success as a doubles player, teaming with Mattar. The Brazilian won when Gilbert was long on the last two returns of the 10th game.

Mattar, winner of the Corals Springs last year, is ranked No. 75. Gilbert this week fell out of the first 100 to 147th. He was runner-up last year at Memphis for his best finish.

In another match, Bret Steven, New Zealander who lives in Bermuda, overcame Fabrice Santoro of France 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

Santoro, who hits two-handed shots on both forehand and backhand, is ranked No. 45 and Steven No. 64.

Also, Renzo Furlan of Italy, ranked 49th, reached the second round with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over qualifier David Nainkin of South Africa, who is No. 203.

Luke Jensen, a wild-card entry, defeated Jared Palmer 6-2, 6-3.

#### Kafelnikov into second round

In Stuttgart, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, fresh off his victory in Milan, routed Peter Korda 6-2, 6-1 Tuesday in the opening round of the \$2.25-million Eurocard Open.

## Conner posts closest win

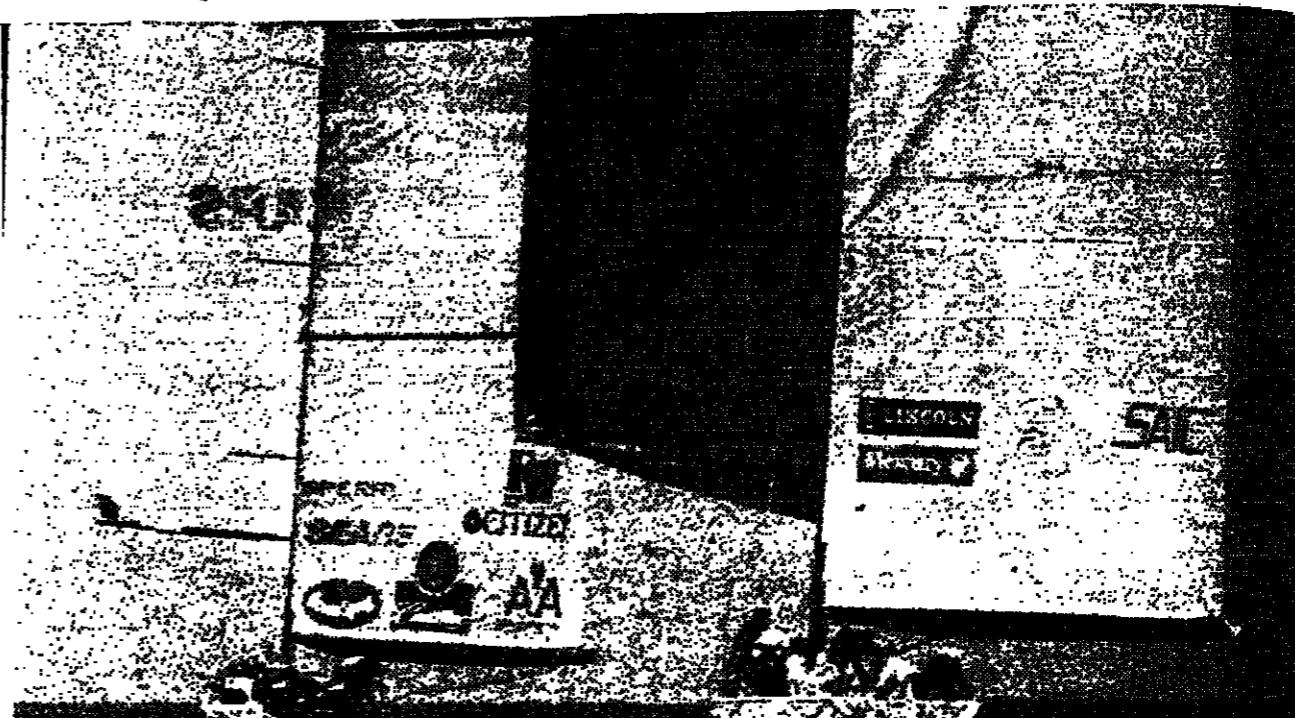
SAN DIEGO (AP) — After 18.55 miles of sailing, Dennis Conner pushed Stars and Stripes across the finish line three seconds ahead of Young America on Tuesday, the closest finish in the 1995 America's Cup trials.

Three seconds translates to less than half the length of a 75-foot (23-metre) racing sloop.

The previous closest margins in the 1995 trials were a 12-second win by Team New Zealand over Nippon on Jan. 31, and a 14-second victory by America3 over Young America on Jan. 29.

The closest finish ever in an America's Cup trial was Italy's one-second win over New Zealand in 1992. Italy then posted the closest finish ever in a finals race, beating America3 by three seconds in race two.

Young America, skippered by America's Cup newcomer Kevin Mahaney, had won five straight races, including two over Stars and Stripes. The victory allowed America3 to beat Young America's lead in the Citizen Cup standings to 21-17. The America3 women's crew is third with seven points.



Stars and Stripes (left) and Young America head downwind in a tight race that was won by Stars and Stripes in the America's Cup trials (APF photo)

On the Challenger Course, the featured matchup between national rivals Team New Zealand and NZL-39 lost some of its edge when the latter broke its main starboard Jib Winch during its first tack on the first Leg. NZL-39 made a game effort, but lost by 1 minute, 28 seconds, its first defeat in five races in the third-round

protest in the second round.

In another national match, John Bertrand's OneAustralia dispatched Sydney 95 by 1:59, and Japan handed Rioja de Espana its 17th loss in 18 races, winning by 1:51.

Young America made up time on each of the next two legs, training by just 12 seconds turning onto the final downwind leg. It continued to close the gap, but ran out of time as Stars and Stripes hit the buoy end of the line just before Young America reached the committee boat

20 seconds at the next mark, only to have Conner take a 32-second lead after the windward third leg.

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Young America made up time on each of the next two legs, training

## Basketball's eventful week concludes Friday

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It has been quite a busy week for the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF), players, referees and fans with at least one basketball match every night.

Like many other sports federations who have organised special tournaments during the holy month of Ramadan, the JBF has offered its share by organising the annual all-star tournament as well as hosting a top Iraqi team — Al Naft — to play with the youth's Under-18 national team as part of their preparations for the Asian championship which will be held March 3-11 in the Philippines.

Al Naft have so far won both their matches against the national team: 82-74 (45-38) in Irbid and 69-68 (31-26) in Amman. They are scheduled to meet Al Orthodoxi and the U-18s before they conclude their visit Friday.

The U-18 team has also been playing alongside the rest of the Kingdom's players in the all-star tournament in which players have been divided into five teams bearing the names of their sponsors: Mitsubishi, Mercedes, Hyundai, Citroen and Toyota.

This is the third annual all-star tournament grouping most the country's top



Yousef Zaghloul

players representing at least seven clubs. The tournament was won by Mitsubishi in 1993 and Mercedes in 1992.

Mercedes have adopted the Under-18 national team to represent them in this tournament which concludes on Al Orthodoxi's court Friday.

So far Mitsubishi are the only unbeaten team and have won three matches. They will next play Toyota Thursday night and seem set to win the championship trophy.

The Mercedes team only lost to Mitsubishi which includes a host of experienced players led by

Yousef Zaghloul who scored 27 points in their last match. His teammates include Marwan Al Saeedi, Ziyad Nabulsi and Fadi Msh, while Mercedes' young lineup includes promising players, yet not well known to basketball fans. They include Zeid Alkhas, Mahmoud Shabani and Ma'an Odeh. Their coaches are former national team stars Murad Barakat and Imad Al Saeed.

Citroen includes an aggressive fast-playing group including Sami Saduldin, Naser Bassam, Yousef Abu Baker and Saqr Khirfan, and are now third in the standings.

Fourth-placed Hyundai have some of the top names at Orthodoxi, Ahd and Jazireh including Samir Murqus, Nasr Alawneh, Ghaidh Eanabi, Walid Badran and Muntaser Al Tayeb.

Toyota are last after losing three matches. They are led by Al Ahli Star Marwan Ma'touq and include Ramez Hammoudi, Mohammad Al Shamali, Hani Al Taher, Faisal Nsoum and Jan Sahleb.

The sponsoring companies have set aside cash prizes to all competing players: Players of the winning team will get JD 70 each, the runners up will receive JD 55, the third placed players JD 50 and the fourth and fifth placed finishers JD 45 each.

## Williams confident of winning

DIDCOT, England (AFP) — The Williams Renault team unveiled its 1995 Formula One FW17 challenger which Technical Director Patrick Head said was aimed at bringing the team both the Drivers' and Constructors' World Championships here on Tuesday.

Williams took the team title last year, but driver Damon Hill was beaten for the Drivers' crown by Michael Schumacher in a Benetton at the final race in Australia, a race won by Nigel Mansell in another Williams.

Team owner Frank Williams chose rising British star David Coulthard over Mansell for his team this year, with Mansell going to the rival McLaren Mercedes team.

After his difficult year last season, taking over team leadership on the death of Ayrton Senna, Hill said at the launch that he felt he had "only really got going towards the end of last year. This season I feel really prepared."

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## Police charge Cantona for assault on fan

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United star Eric Cantona was charged with common assault by police here on Tuesday following the incident in which he became involved in a brawl with a Crystal Palace fan four weeks ago.

Cantona will appear in court on March 23rd and could face the maximum penalty of six months in prison and/or a fine of 5,000 pounds.

But it is unlikely that the Frenchman will go to prison as the charge of common assault is the least serious of those in its category and rarely results in a jail term.

The police could have charged Cantona with the more serious offence of causing actual bodily harm which carries a greater likelihood of imprisonment.

A police spokesman said a report had now been submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and a response from them was awaited.

The CPS, the organisation ultimately responsible for bringing criminal cases to court, have the power to upgrade, down grade or drop charges altogether.

But the decision to bring a charge of common assault suggests the police felt that the injuries sustained by Mathew Simmons — the fan involved in the incident — did not warrant a graver charge.

The charge was made after Cantona was interviewed by detectives for three hours in a



Manchester United's French soccer star Eric Cantona (front seat passenger) arrives at the police station (AFP photo)

South London Police station.

Cantona, who was accompanied by Manchester United's lawyer Maurice Watkins and club security chief Ned Kelly, was driven away at high speed after his interview to return to Manchester.

Police press officer Frank Parker said: "Mr Eric Cantona was charged with the following offence, relating to an incident at Crystal Palace football club. The charge is common assault in that on January 25, 1995, at Crystal Palace football ground at Selhurst Park, he did assault Mathew Simmons."

The charge follows the events at Crystal Palace where television pictures showed Cantona launching a "kung-fu" style kick at an allegedly abusive fan.

The incident had occurred during Manchester United's league match at Selhurst Park after Cantona had been sent off for lashing out at a Crystal Palace defender.

As he walked from the pitch, Simmons allegedly ran towards the touchline, screaming foul abuse at the United star.

Witnesses spoke of how

Simmons had run down 11

rows of seats, shouting "F\*\*\*

off back to France, you

French bastard."

Cantona responded to the alleged provocation by jumping over the advertising boards with a two-footed kick that

appeared to land on Sim

mons' chest.

A brief exchange of fists

ensued before Cantona was led from the scene by his team-mate Peter Schmeichel.

The incident caused an uproar and led to a long period of soul-searching in English football and the British press about both Cantona's behaviour and the type of hooligan abuse that the Frenchman was alleged to have sustained.

United banned the Frenchman until the end of the season and fined him 20,000 pounds for his part in the incident while Simmons was also banned from attending Crystal Palace matches for the rest of the season.

The English Football Association (FA) welcomed the club's disciplinary measures but this Friday they will return their own verdict on the Frenchman when he will appear before a specially convened FA disciplinary hearing.

The FA confirmed later on Tuesday that they have no plans to drop their own misconduct charge against Cantona.

"We have had no representations from the police about our own hearing affecting the legal position, so we will go ahead," said FA spokesman Mike Parry.

"The police were made aware that Eric Cantona faces an FA Commission on Friday, but they haven't been back to us, so we intend to proceed with our arrangements," he added.

Cantona was also allegedly involved in assault on a British television crew while on holiday on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe ten days ago.

But the Frenchman has since threatened to take legal action against the ITN crew for libel and invasion of privacy.

Cantona's Manchester United team-mate Paul Ince, who has also been interviewed over his involvement in the confusion which followed the Crystal Palace incident, was bailed to return to the same south London police station on an unpublished date.

## Balloonist crosses Pacific

CHICAGO (AFP) — An American balloonist fulfilled his quest to become the first person to pilot a balloon solo across the Pacific Ocean, landing in Canada Tuesday after a three-day journey from South Korea.

Steve Fossett, a 50-year-old Chicago stockbroker, passed over Vancouver Island in British Columbia and over to the mainland after the grueling journey in subzero temperatures, landing near leader, Saskatchewan.

"He's tired, he wants to come home," David Slavsky, a Loyola University astronomer and spokesman for the expedition said before Fossett touched down at 6 p.m. (0100 GMT).

The balloonist originally hoped to land in either North Dakota or Montana, according to his ground team, but was eager to get back to earth and planned a landing in Alberta or Saskatchewan late Tuesday despite warnings of

high winds. "Nothing seems to be gained by staying one more night aloft," said Slavsky. "This is a tough, rigorous journey for him and you have to be at your best when landing."

The flight crew said Fossett also broke the world balloon distance record of 5,208 nautical miles but appeared too exhausted to make much of the feat.

"He's very laid back about it," said flight manager Alan Noble. "When he crossed the coast he said 'I've flown the Pacific. I'm over Canada. No whoopee' or anything like that."

After seven events, Russia

## Snowboarding takes stage in Winter University Games

JACA, Spain (AP) — It was snowboarding's biggest day on the world sports stage Tuesday at the Winter University Games. In the medal count, a gold in cross-country kept Russia ahead after seven events.

France picked up the second of three gold medals on offer Tuesday with Stephane Aubonnet's victory in the men's downhill. French skiers won silver and bronze in Monday's women's downhill.

After seven events, Russia

has four medals, including three golds. Japan has one gold and four silver. France has one gold and a total of three, and the United States has a gold and silver.

Snowboarding, a demonstration sport that aspires to make it to the Olympics, previewed here with U.S. men and women winning three of the six top places.

Half of the 16 boarders entered in the men's and women's field were Americans.

"We absolutely proved it



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dead Iranians 'prove' Iraq holds no PoWs

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iraqi government on Wednesday said the discovery of the bodies of 3,000 Iranians killed in the 1980-1988 war supports its claim that no Iranian prisoner of war (PoW) is still held in Iraq. "The discovery of the remains of the Iranians proves beyond any doubt what Iraq has said and the lack of truth in the Iranian officials' claims," an Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman told the official Iraqi News Agency INA. Iran on Sunday held mass funerals for 3,000 soldiers whose bodies were found on the former battlefields of southwestern Iran. Tehran says more than 30,000 are still missing, soldiers and civilians, and claims that thousands are still alive and held by Iraq. Baghdad on the other hand denies detaining any prisoner and accuses Iran of raising the issue to avoid disclosing how many casualties it suffered during the war.

## Comedian Mohammad Reda dies of heart attack

CAIRO (AP) — Comedian Mohammed Reda, famous in his roles as a simple and kind Egyptian peasant in hundreds of films and plays, died of a heart attack Tuesday night. He was 74. Reda, whose ample girth was part of his act, was giving an interview to a local radio station at his home when he died. Millions of Egyptians have watched him daily during the Holy Month of Ramadan in the successful television series "Living Next Door." On Tuesday morning, he finished filming the last episode of the series which will run until the end of the month. Reda played roles in more than 300 films, 100 plays and 70 television series. He will be buried Wednesday.

## Ten people drown in Gulf storm

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ten people drowned when a boat transporting 7,000 bags of rice capsized in stormy Gulf waters off the Iranian coast, newspapers reported here Wednesday. The boat's sole survivor, Youssef Dezgani, told newspapers that the fan in the cargo boat's engine had also broken as it steamed Monday through rough waters to Iran from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Two of the bodies have so far been retrieved and the search continues around the area where the accident occurred near Bandar Lange port in Hormozgan province, the papers said. The nationalities of the victims or the boat was not given.

## Suharto pledges to help Libya

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian President Suharto, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), on Wednesday pledged to work for the lifting of the U.N. air embargo on Libya since 1992, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said. Mr. Alatas said Mr. Suharto had visiting Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Muntasir that Jakarta "will do its utmost in the U.N. Security Council when the matter of the sanction of Libya comes for review." Indonesia recently joined the U.N. Security Council as a non-permanent member and leads the NAM caucus in the powerful world body. Speaking after accompanying Mr. Muntasir to a courtesy call on Suharto, Alatas told journalists that his Libyan counterpart had asked the NAM chairman to help get the sanctions on Libya lifted.

## Israeli settler to sue author Oz

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Leading Israeli author Amos Oz is facing a libel battle after accusing a former far-right deputy from Kiryat Arba of having an "appetite for vengeance." Guela Cohen, who lost her seat in the 1992 elections, has vowed to sue unless the left-wing writer apologises. The Yediot Acharonot newspaper published the Oz article last week to coincide with the first anniversary of the Hebron mosque massacre by settler Baruch Goldstein, who also lived in Kiryat Arba. "A fiery woman from Kiryat Arba, a former member of parliament, well understands the appetite for vengeance and is partner to it, and she has no problem, moral or otherwise with the fact that vengeance manifests itself in the murder of innocents," Mr. Oz wrote. Ms. Cohen was not named but is the only former deputy in the settlement and is well-known in Israel. "He defamed me. It is time to knock him off his pedestal," Ms. Cohen said. "He is constantly attacking settlers." Mr. Oz, a supporter of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, has not responded.

## Kuwaitis donate \$100 million for defence

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis have donated \$30 million dinars (\$100 million) to pay for allied support during a border stand-off with Iraq in October, a government minister said in remarks published on Wednesday. Social Affairs Minister Ahmad Al Kulaihi said a campaign for voluntary donations to a special defence fund was continuing and many firms had expressed desire to contribute, the English language Arab Times reported. Western forces rushed to the region when Iraq, which occupied Kuwait for seven months in 1990-91, deployed troops near the border for 10 days in early October. Diplomats estimated the cost of the buildup by American, French, British and Gulf Arab air, land and naval forces at around \$500 million, of which Kuwait is paying half. Most of the rest is to be paid by the oil state's Gulf Arab allies.

## Israel cracks down on die-hard husbands

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament has passed legislation to punish men who refuse to divorce their wives. Judaism gives the husband the final say, but now civil courts have been a battery of sanctions to help women who want to end their marriage. They include taking away cheque-books, passports and driving licences, preventing the husband from running a business or occupying public positions. If all that fails, the courts will be able to jail husbands for up to 10 years. Left-wing Meretz Party deputy Dedi Zucker said the new law on divorce, passed Tuesday night, "modernised legislation that is 1,000 years old." The bill was presented after rabbis had kept a husband in jail for 32 years for refusing to grant his wife a divorce. Yihye Avraham was the longest-serving prisoner in Israel when he died last December.

## Smugglers face whip under new Iran law

TEHRAN (AFP) — Smugglers can be punished with 74 lashes of the whip as well as hefty fines under a new Iranian law aimed at curbing the outflow of foreign currency. Ahrar newspaper said smugglers of "unauthorised goods" such as alcohol or satellite dishes would be jailed for up to two years. Smuggling — mainly from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates — has been flourishing since Iran, hit by a foreign debt of more than \$30 billion cut back on imports to stem the outflow of foreign currency. Illegal imports are costing the government between three billion to five billion dollars a year, against around \$10 billion in legal imports last year, according to official estimates. The daily Iran News on Sunday questioned the efficacy of the new anti-smuggling law, saying it did not address the root of the problem. "Smuggling is pitifully rampant in Iran... due to the absence of proper economic and industrial mechanisms which could meet domestic demand for goods," the English-language daily said.

## Gaza police defuse old mines

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police on Wednesday defused scores of mines left over in Gaza after the 1967 Middle East war. Major General Abdul Razek Al Majeida, head of Gaza's general security forces, said 105 mines were found a day earlier around Muwasat in southern Gaza, and defused. He said mines throughout Gaza dated back to the wars between Egypt and Israel and were abandoned when the Egyptians retreated in 1967.



KING HOSTSIFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday hosted at Basman Palace an iftar in honour of tribal leaders and representatives of public and private sectors in Balqa Governorate. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court

Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's advisor Mohammad Kasouf Al Kilani, Royal Court Imam Ahmad Helayel and Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatarnah. The King and the guests performed Al Maghreb prayers together (Petra photo)

## Ekeus holds lengthy meetings in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus held more talks here Wednesday with Iraq's military industrialisation chief, General Amer Mohammad Rashid, on missing data from Baghdad's secret weapons programme.

"We have talks. We have not concluded them yet," Mr. Ekeus told reporters on the fourth day of a mission which could pave the way to a lifting of the oil embargo.

Mr. Ekeus held nine hours of negotiations on Tuesday with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and Gen. Rashid, and later met separately with Mr. Aziz, who is in charge of relations with the United Nations.

He also met the Soviet ambassador, Nicolai Kartozov, the same day. "I was kindly invited by the Russian ambassador. We discussed the situation," said Mr. Ekeus, who is to visit Moscow on Feb. 28.

The Swedish diplomat has said he would leave Baghdad on Thursday.

A spokesman for Mr. Ekeus is to present an oral report to the Security Council, which is to review the sanctions at its next two-monthly session in March. In April he will send a written report to the body.

Diplomats here said an easing of the embargo was not expected at the next review, amid strong opposition from the United States and Britain.

In Geneva, the U.N. special rapporteur on Iraq charged Tuesday that it was guilty of "terrible" human rights abuses and ran a penal system where cruelty had become institutionalised. (see page 2)

## Somali warlords sign deal; U.N. convoy shot up

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's two most powerful warlords signed an 11-hour agreement to suspend hostilities in Mogadishu.

The pact, if it holds, will avert battles for control of key facilities in the capital after the last U.N. troops withdraw next week under the protection of a 10,000-strong task force from six nations.

Similar peace agreements in the past have all failed.

The last 2,500 U.N. Pakistani peacekeepers leave on Tuesday, followed by the 3,100 U.S. and Italian marines who will come ashore from landing craft as a rear guard.

Washington has expressed concern about the reactors to be built in Iran.

## Israel to offer compromise in NPT row

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will seek a compromise in Cairo on Thursday to a crisis over Israel's refusal to renew the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the foreign ministry said.

"We are convinced that both sides will do their utmost to reduce tensions, which are negative for the peace process," spokesman Yigal Palmor told AFP.

"We will not sign the treaty but we will try to find a compromise acceptable to both countries."

Mr. Peres was to fly out Thursday morning for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa amid the worst crisis in relations since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"It is of course irritating us," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Radio of Egypt's demand that Israel sign the treaty. "We hope it will be possible to put an end to the misunderstanding."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Mr. Peres on Wednesday to finalise Israel's position, officials said, but gave no details.

Mr. Musa disclosed Monday that progress had been made in the dispute and that proposals had been put forward.

Mr. Mubarak has rallied Arab countries to his threat not to sign the treaty when it comes up for renewal in mid-April unless Israel joins.

Israel argues it has special "security" needs.

## Iran reactors

Nuclear reactors due to be built by Russia for Iran cannot be used to produce plutonium or build nuclear weapons, the Russian atomic energy ministry said Wednesday, responding to concern voiced by the head of an Iranian foreign minister group.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the ministry as saying the reactors were the same sort that the United States was preparing to deliver to North Korea.

Russia planned to build similar reactors in China and India, the ministry added.

Washington has expressed concern about the reactors to be built in Iran.

## UNRWA regrets 'leak,' says no cuts in services

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The leakage of a strictly confidential document which listed proposed cuts within the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Jordan, was regrettable and has caused unwarranted concern, the director of UNRWA affairs here Ele Jan Saaf, said Wednesday.

The document, leaked to local dailies, listed amendments or cuts, that would be applied to the health and education programmes and the relief and social services in the event of financial difficulties.

The letter, dated Nov. 30, 1994, was signed by Mr. Saaf and addressed to the commissioner general, general cabinet at the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna.

Under heading, "Financial Situation," the document read:

"Please find below a list of cuts that would leave core

activities plus a further \$8 million for 'earmarked' projects, Mr. Saaf told the Jordan Times.

Currently the Peace Implementation Programme (PIP) is the earmarked project. This includes the construction of schools, health centres and the improvement of camps and equipment, he added.

"Every year we are afraid that donor contributions would not match expenditure and would not cover on-going expenses. 65 per cent of our on-going expenses are for staff," said Mr. Saaf in an interview.

Therefore, he added, the leaked document was a routine paper following a regular activity, which is performed on an annual basis because the required funding is never certain.

The same exercise is also performed by UNRWA field offices in Gaza and the West Bank, in Lebanon, Syria and even in Vienna. Mr. Saaf said.

## Chechens announce revenge massacre

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chechen rebels intend to organise revenge massacre of Russian soldiers on Thursday to mark the 51st anniversary of Stalin's mass deportation of Chechens, the news agency Interfax said here Wednesday.

It quoted the Chechen government's press spokesman, Moviady Urdugov, as saying that national congress of the Chechen people decided to organise a "St. Bartholomew's Day massacre" of Russian soldiers on Thursday.

This was a reference to the slaughter of thousands of French Protestants by Catholics on Aug. 24, 1572. The Chechen variant will be called a "day of national retribution," Mr. Urdugov said.

Interfax said the congress was held at Kurchalo, 40 kilometres southeast of Grozny, and attended by 700 delegates from around the country including the military and clergy.

Mr. Urdugov added that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, addressing the conference, called for an embargo on all foreign loans to Moscow on the grounds that the money would be used to rearm Russia and relaunch Russian imperialism.

On Feb. 23, 1944, some 400,000 Chechens were loaded into cattle trucks at the orders of Joseph Stalin and hauled off to remote Siberia and Kazakhstan, as punishment for allegedly collaborating with Nazi Germany.

An IMF team was due to Moscow on Thursday to resume negotiations for the loan, but Mr. Dudayev said the fund would bear responsibility for "rearming the Russian army" and for encouraging Russian imperialism if it extended the loan.

## U.N. sets new date for Rabbani to quit

KABUL (Agencies) — U.N. special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, struggling to rescue his peace plan for war-torn Afghanistan, announced on Wednesday that President Burhanuddin Rabbani had promised to end his self-extended term on March 21.

Rabbani has not set any conditions for his agreement and he has given an undertaking to hand over power on that day, Mr. Mestiri told a news conference in Kabul.

Mr. Mestiri, who had originally planned for Mr. Rabbani to transfer power two days ago to a representative "mechanism" of 30 Afghan leaders, said a four-man working group had been formed to consider the composition of the mechanism and to establish a security force that would be in place for the transfer of power.

He said the new Islamic student militia known as Talibans had given conditional assurances that it would not block the plan.

The Talibans have agreed with this and have promised not to obstruct the peace process, provided there is an Islamic government that conforms to the will of the majority of the Afghan people," the former Tunisian foreign minister said.

Mr. Mestiri, whose original timetable apart because of the sudden emergence of the Talibans and tougher government demands, expressed satisfaction with the latest agreement.

"I think it is quite an impressive result, considering the difficult days we have just been through," he said.

Mr. Mestiri was speaking after holding separate talks with Taliban and government leaders. He had returned to Kabul from the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, early on Wednesday after briefing some Afghan leaders stated to take part in the interim mechanism.

Ahmed Shah Masood, the strong man of President Rabbani's camp, appears to be the immediate beneficiary of the failure of the U.N. peace plan.

Mr. Masood, the hero of the 1980-90 war against the Soviets and feared as a strategist, quickly understood that an entirely new scenario was created by the arrival of the Talibans last week at the gates of the capital.

At the beginning of the past week, Mr. Masood insisted on speeding up the U.N. peace plan for a ruling council of 30 to replace Mr. Rabbani.

Then Mr. Masood suddenly hardened his position, throwing up obstacles to the plan and forcing Mr. Mestiri, to suspend the transfer of power until the hypothetical date of March 21, which coincides with the beginning of the Afghan new year.

Mr. Masood, whose forces control most of the capital, has come away with three indisputable gains:

— The front line, which was at the gates of Kabul 10 days ago, has receded to 15 kilometres outside the city.

— Mr. Rabbani, Mr. Masood's political support, has remained in power, with the United Nation's blessing.

ing to that (the implementation of cuts and amendments)."

He felt that the document had caused particular concern because it included possible cuts in the educational programme which is currently undergoing a management study.

But, he said, "the agency conducts many management studies because we are dealing with public money and we have to show that the money is being used well."

Mr. Saaf is serving his third term here with UNRWA. The first was as deputy director between 1981 and 1985. He then returned as director in 1986, a post which he held until 1990 and finally took up the position of director a second time in September 1994.

Mr. Saaf told the Jordan Times that the annual major donor meeting in Amman will be in the presence of UNRWA Commissioner

(Continued on page 7)

## COLUMN 8

## Horror surgeon finds can of worms

CAIRO (AFP) — Doctors found about 250 worms in the belly of an eight-year-old Egyptian boy when they operated on him for stomachache, the Al-Masaa newspaper reported. The child's mother fainted when the surgeon opened up the boy and the horrified pair saw 25-centimetre (10 inches) worms crawling out of his stomach, the paper said, publishing photos to back up its story. Doctors said the worms had come from eating unwashed vegetables and had left the boy with chronic stomach pains for two years.

## China unveils gold platinum Deng watch

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese factory has produced the most expensive item yet to bear the face of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, a gold, diamond and platinum watch costing up to 11,300 yuan (\$1,340). The China News Service said Wednesday that proceeds from sales would go to the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped.

Mr. Dudayev appealed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to refuse a \$6.3 billion loan to Russia.

An IMF team was due to Moscow on Thursday to resume negotiations for the loan, but Mr. Dudayev said the fund would bear responsibility for "rearming the Russian army" and for encouraging Russian imperialism if it extended the loan.</